





## Arafat assails U.S. stance on peace talks

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat criticised the United States Monday for allowing Israel to maintain an uncompromising stand in Middle East peace process and blocking any progress towards a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

In a letter to a United Nations committee that supervises the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians, a Nov. 29 commemoration decreed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1977, Mr. Arafat urged the international body to help push forward the stalled process.

A copy of the letter was distributed by the PLO's office to news organisations in Tunis.

The United States, Mr. Arafat said, was "playing a negative role by not dealing with the absence of Israeli commitment to...the international resolutions on which the process was based and which were contained in the letters of assurances and invitations to the conference."

Israel refuses to apply U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which the United States, the co-sponsor with Russia of the peace process, had cited as the basis for the negotiations launched a year ago.

The resolution demands Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Israel has offered a partial

withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, but Syria is demanding a complete retreat. But the Jewish state has steadfastly rejected any pullout from the West Bank and Gaza.

Another complaint contained in Mr. Arafat's letter was U.S. acceptance earlier this year to provide Israel with \$10 billion loan guarantees which he said encouraged Israel's intransigence and the establishment of more Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"The U.S. administration was quick to throw this process off its proper track when it suddenly accepted to provide Israel with the loan guarantees and assured Israel that it will maintain the military edge in the area," he said, according to the Arabic text.

"This has aggravated Arab frustrations and jeopardised the credibility of the U.S. stance towards the peace process."

"We hope the new U.S. administration which has declared its desire to push ahead with the peace process would effectively contribute to the success" of the talks, he said. He urged President-Elect Bill Clinton's team to "take into consideration the emerging negative factors and treat them wisely to put the march of peace on a secure track."

## Algerian paper slams Iran

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's government newspaper urged Arab countries Tuesday to act against what it called the Iranian-inspired "axis of terrorism."

"All the attempts at destabilisation aimed at Arab countries have the sole and same guiding band: the Iranian regime," Al Moudjahid said in its main front-page story.

In its harshest attack on Tehran since Algerians expelled seven Iranian diplomats last month, the newspaper said:

"The hand of Tehran is behind all the subversive acts aiming to break...Algeria, Egypt or Iraq, to spread there the germs of civil war."

Iran's religious leaders planned to break up the Arab World, something which Israel had failed to do in 40 years, it declared under a headline "The Fundamentalist Khomintism."

Iranian fundamentalists were moving to "the creation of a structure...charged with coordinating the action of different terrorist groups active in Arab countries," it said, adding that Sudan had become a satellite and advance base of Tehran.

Sudan has denied having guerrilla training bases.

"Before these perils, Arab countries must react. It has gone beyond classic interference. It is no longer a question of taking offence according to diplomatic norms...the response must equal the aggression," it said.

On Monday, the independent Al Watan newspaper called on the Arab World to isolate Tehran, suggesting sanctions be imposed on Iran.

Algeria and Egypt are cooperating publicly against what President Hosni Mubarak calls Iran's "aggression and blackmail."

Moudjahid's blast coincides with an Algerian crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists, blamed for killing at least 170 members of the security forces since February.

Algeria has outlawed the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main fundamentalist party, and Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam has warned Algerians they could face further curbs on civil liberties from Friday.

## 'Brother of Tunisian president' gets 10 years in drug case

PARIS (Agencies) — The reputed brother of Tunisian President Zine al Abidine Ben Ali received a 10-year prison sentence in absentia Monday for serving as the bagman in an international heroin trafficking ring.

A court convicted 51-year-old Habib Ben Ali, believed to be in Tunisia, of conveying drug money and taking part in a criminal enterprise. He was banned from French territory from life, except to serve his sentence.

Twenty-five other defendants accused of working with the ring, most of whom were in custody, received penalties ranging from 15 months to 15 years imprisonment.

Tunisia has officially denied that Mr. Ben Ali has any link to the president and accuses French media of conducting a smear campaign. But prosecutors working the case for nearly three years are sure the pair are brothers.

Tunisia's tightly-controlled media blacked out coverage of the trial, Tunisians with satellite antennas were able to pick up French news broadcasts with the details.

Prosecutors claimed that Mr. Ben Ali played a leading role in the so-called "Couscous Connection," funneling heroin between the Netherlands, Belgium and France via a network of North African immigrants.

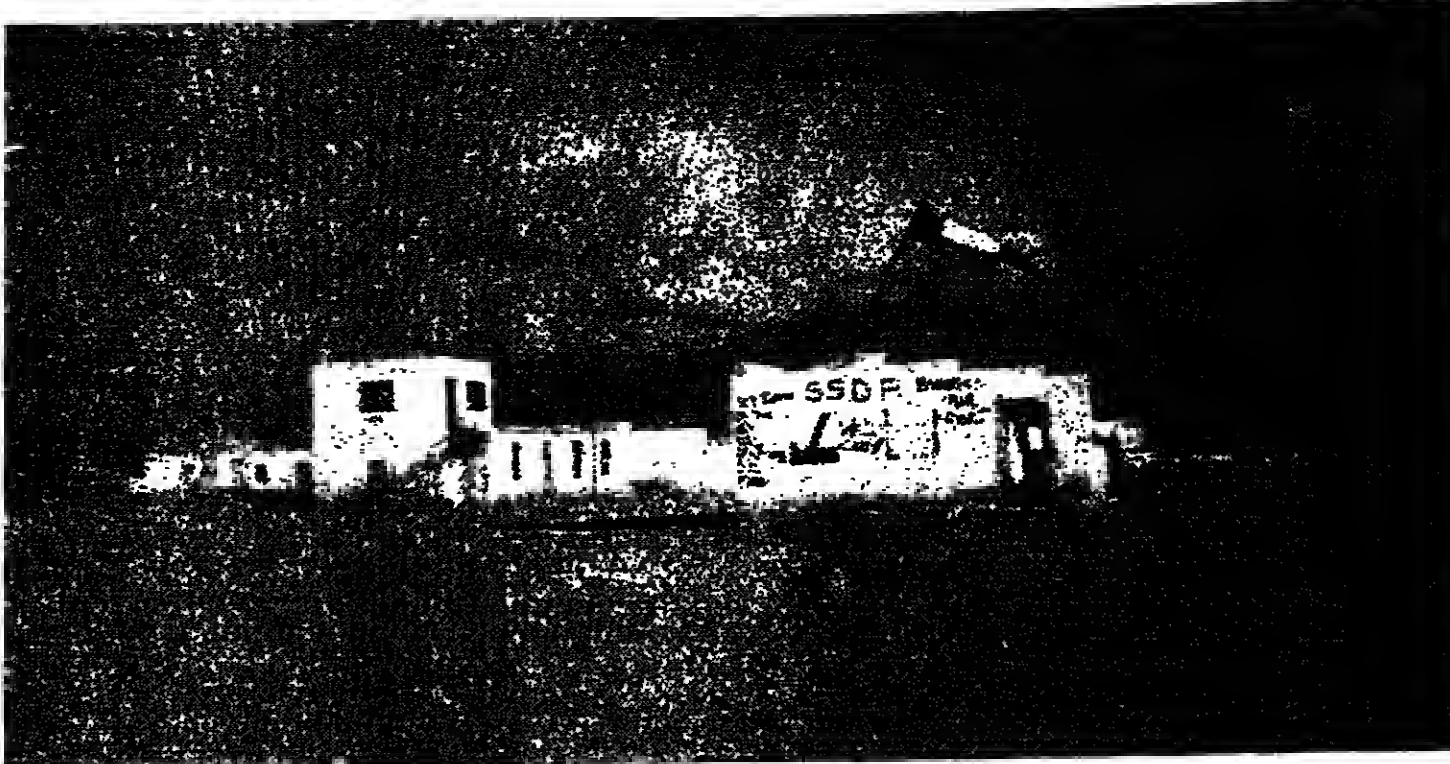
Co-defendants testified the Mr. Ben Ali, called "The Director" by other ring members, served as a bagman, or money courier, carrying drug profits in suitcases and repatriating them to Tunisia.

Mr. Ben Ali, a frequent visitor to Paris, reportedly escaped arrest earlier this year by leaving France on a diplomatic passport, supplied by Tunisian diplomats, that granted him immunity.

An international warrant for arrest was issued in May.

Jean-Claude Antonetti, who headed the trial court, confirmed Monday that the warrant was still in effect.

## Bossasso — an exception to the rule in shattered Somalia



'Welcome to Bossasso' — the "terminal" of the northern Somali city's airport (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BOSSASSO, a small port on the Gulf of Aden in northern Somalia, is an exception to the reports of mass starvation and death in the country despite the violence that swept through the town in the past two years.

In direct, relieving contrast to many other towns and cities in war-ravaged Somalia, children are playing in the streets of Bossasso. Men and women go about their work and the central market is teeming with life; basic supplies and some not-so basic goods such as perfumes and leather shoes are plenty.

Dozens of ships and numerous dhows crowd the port unloading rice, sugar and flour ferried from Saudi Arabia, Dubai and other Gulf ports and loading sheep and cattle.

Perhaps the only reminder of the undercurrents that plague Somalia are the gunmen who, by design of coincidence, loiter discreetly in strategic junctions and the busy port area.

But it was here that a doctor working for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was shot dead a few weeks ago, prompting the organisation to dilute its presence in the city. The agency returned to the town last week, apparently after receiving guarantees that the attack was an isolated incident.

Many town residents and relief workers argue that the killing was an accident, although some claim that it was the work of Islamic fundamentalists who want to scare away foreign relief agencies from Bossasso so that they could have a free hand in influencing the city's 100,000 or so population into religious extremism.

"Misery and frustration are the perfect recipe for extremism to take root and offer any kind of fundamentalism to make headway; Somalia is no exception," noted Saifullah Milas, a leading expert on Somali affairs.

However, as many Bossasso residents said, the fundamentalists, believed to be backed by Iran and Ethiopian groups, face a tough

task in their designs if only because of the resistance of the people of the town and surrounding areas.

One of the obvious means adopted by the fundamentalists is to offer help — mostly food — to the starving to buy their support, but it is not getting much headway since the not-so religious political forces in the area are not allowing them any significant presence in Bossasso and the camps for displaced around the town.

"There is an uncanny sense of solidarity among the people here despite their diverse ethnic structures," said Alain Charriaud, a member of the Doctors of the World who spent two months in Bossasso before returning home to Paris last week.

The explanation lies in the fact that the bulk of the population of Bossasso is people who fled their hometowns elsewhere in the country to the relative safety of the port town and their denunciation of clan-based politics and rivalry — one of the root causes of the misery that Somalia is living through today.

"Bossasso is an exception to the rule in Somalia," said Dr. Charriaud as he flew with this reporter back to Djibouti en route to Paris. "Here the people help and protect each other instead of going for each other's throat."

"Obviously they do not want any political force to disrupt the relative calm that prevails here."

Concern is expressed elsewhere in the country that the Somalia Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), led by the dominant Mijerteen clan, is pushing for a third political entity to emerge from the ruins of the Horn of Africa country.

Many SSDF leaders have publicly voiced their determination to pursue this objective, particularly after the strong Isaaq and Isaaq clans proclaimed their "Republic of Somaliland" in the north-west in the wake of the ouster of the regime of Mohammad Siad Barre last year.

ating independent of groups elsewhere in Somalia and there is evidently little love lost in Bossasso for the two main warring factions each other in Mogadishu — interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad and challenger Mohammad Farah Aideed.

Most experts on Somali politics believe that the SSDF stand is strong-rooted and this in itself would be a major factor in the eventual failure of the Islamic fundamentalists, whose fighting force was ousted from Bossasso in a fierce round of battle in June this year.

According to Ali Abdul Qadir, a volunteer for the U.N. in the town, "When the fighting ended, we found the dead bodies of many foreign guerrillas — Afghans, Sudanese, Libyans, Ethiopians and even Iranians — who were fighting on the side of the fundamentalists."

"We have our own troubles without having to import some more," added the volunteer, gesturing towards the ruins of some buildings still bearing parts of graffiti extolling the virtues of "Islamic revolution."

In addition to UNICEF and the International Committee of Red Cross, other agencies operating in Bossasso include the World Food Programme, the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agricultural Organisation as well as the Paris-based Doctors of the World.

"We need more food for distribution in the camps for the displaced," said Saifullah Al Awad of the United Nations Operation Somalia, the umbrella organisation.

The local cattle-breeding industry has not been totally bent out of shape in the civil strife, and thus there are means to make a living for Bossasso residents. Private businessmen operating out of the Gulf states bring in food, including basic vegetables and other items in and take out cattle.

Many of the dhows calling at Bossasso port are owned and operated by Indians and the strictly business for the "We bring food and items from the Gulf and sheep, cattle and sometimes Saudi Arabia," Osman said. "We are waiting for turn to be loaded."

"We are waiting for months ahead," said a man who admitted having heard reports of famine in Somalia.

"I can't see any famine in Bossasso," said a man who said he had been displaced in the conflict, but that he was in control, but that he was more than four years that is not high enough for the average person. The main problem in the camp was the total absence of mother and child-care which in turn has led to many deaths and often to deaths.

"There was very little public health services in even before the crisis. There is a very little awareness."

Surprisingly, he added in general do not eat much rich food despite the abundance of fish in the Gulf of the Indian Ocean, which offer 3,200 kilometres for Somalia.

While many of the displaced in Bossasso, there is also a number of ethnic Ethiopians in the camps, he said. They were caught in the violence had to flee the border and they cannot go back to their home because of hostile fundamentalist forces.

Foreign diplomats in Kenya, down the Indian coast, believe that the forces are regrouping at new push into Bossasso.

"They have to be met as soon as possible, as effort is to succeed and in Bossasso," said an Almat in Nairobi, the Kenyan. "The problem is how the writer has just after a three-week visit."

## Israel punishes press for bypassing censor

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's government indefinitely suspended the press accreditation of correspondents working for a U.S. and a British newspaper Tuesday for bypassing military censorship.

Uri Dromi, head of the government press office, said said he had withdrawn press cards from Carol Rosenberg of the Miami Herald and Ian Black of the Guardian. He said four other foreign correspondents would be summoned to the military censor's office for a formal warning.

"The reason was severe censorship violations by writing the stories about the Tse'elim accident without submitting them to military censorship," Mr. Dromi told Reuters.

Ms. Rosenberg wrote that the Nov. 5 military accident at Tse'elim in which five soldiers were killed by a missile occurred during training for the planned assassination of Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Mr. Black had hinted that the head of military intelligence, Uri Saguy, was watching the exercise by an elite unit. The army later admitted, after complaints of censorship from Israeli newspapers, that Mr. Saguy and army chief Ehud Barak were present.

Other aspects of the incident — which caused a flood of leaks from senior ranks — were reported in stories by the other reporters reprimanded Tuesday.

Mr. Dromi said the four journalists to receive formal warnings would be Clyde Haberman of the New York Times and three British reporters: Richard Beeston of the Times, Anton La Guardia of the Daily Telegraph and Sarah-Helm of the Independent.

Mr. Black, protesting the "cynical" action, said Israeli officials had actively encouraged foreign publication of details of the accident in an effort to inform their own people about an event deeply embarrassing to the military leadership.

"It is a shabby way for a government in a democratic country to behave," Mr. Black said.

The suspension of press accreditation — which Mr. Dromi said would be for an indefinite period — seriously limits reporting. A government press card is required to attend many news conferences or to enter government buildings.

Israeli media had focused on the feud inside the military after the five soldiers were killed, labelling it "the war of the generals," but had not revealed details of the exercise.

The Miami Herald story said the dead soldiers were in a squad that was to kill Sheikh Nasrallah, whose Hizbollah guerrillas battle Israeli troops occupying a strip of territory in the south of Lebanon.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 2 killed in Fateh - Abu Nidal dispute

SIDON (AP) — Two Palestinians were killed in South Lebanon overnight in the ongoing violence between followers of Yasser Arafat and Abu Nidal, police said Tuesday. Police said the two apparent members of Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (Fateh-RC) faction were killed when a bomb they were planting near Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in the 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp exploded prematurely. He identified the two as Walid Abu Tarboush and Hassan 'Eid. Schools closed in the shanty town Tuesday to protest against the wave of killings between Abu Nidal's followers and Mr. Arafat's mainline Fateh faction. The Fateh-RC office in Beirut withheld comment on the report. The death of the two brought to 21 the overall number of Palestinians killed in the wave of slayings that broke out with the assassination of Mr. Arafat's security chief, Atef Bseiso, near a Paris hotel June 8. Mr. Arafat's loyalists cracked down on Abu Nidal's followers and evicted them from refugee camps of South Lebanon in a three-day showdown in September 1990, which killed 75 people and wounded 200. Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, split from the PLO in 1973 and formed the Fateh-RC.

#### Dutch youth beat up Somali for being black

AMSTERDAM (R) — Police said Tuesday they had arrested a Dutch youth who beat up a Somali refugee, saying he hated black people. The 31-year-old Somali was taken to hospital after the 19-year-old youth beat, kicked and held him captive in a train compartment for about 20 minutes, a police spokesman said. The two were alone in the compartment. It was only when the Somali tried to escape at a station in the southern town of Eindhoven that fellow-travellers raised the alarm. More than 30 incidents of racist violence have been reported in the Netherlands this year.

#### U.S. may expel Islamic leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities are seeking to expel from the United States an Egyptian Islamic leader who was charged and then released for lack of evidence in the 1982 killing of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The leader, Sheikh

#### Omair Abdul Rahman, is blind and confined to a wheelchair

has been living in New Jersey and New York since he arrived in the United States in July 1990 on a tourist visa, according to immigration officials. Sheikh Abdul Rahman is a spiritual leader of the Egyptian version of the radical underground group called Islamic Jihad. He has been accused in Egypt of terrorist activities but never convicted. Sheikh Abdul Rahman legal permanent resident of the United States that he resided last March without his contesting it, an immigration source said. An exclusion hearing is scheduled for Sheikh Rahman on Jan. 20 in Newark, according to an official provided details on condition of anonymity. "Exclusion" is to deportation but applies to people considered never legally entered the country. The hearing is to be held by immigration law judge, who has power to exclude immigrants from the United States. The decision can be appealed to a higher court. An exclusion hearing, unlike a deportation proceeding, behind closed doors unless the subject requests that it be public. It places the burden of proof on the subject to show he or she should be allowed to stay in the United States.

#### Somali envoy expelled from Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden has expelled a Somali diplomat accused of attempting to subvert Swedish immigration regulations. Foreign ministry spokesman said Monday. Swedish newspaper the Somali embassy had issued hundreds of new passport citizens who said they had lost the originals. The new documents could easily be altered to show a different identity, the report. The spokesman confirmed that one of three Somali diplomats Stockholm had been declared persona non grata for "calculated to subvert Swedish immigration requirements." diplomat has already left the country. Ambassador Yussuf Said, who was summoned to the foreign ministry last week, immediately available for comment. The spokesman said embassy had advised that it was closing at least temporarily would decide whether and when to reopen. He added that reason for the embassy's closure was unpaid bills, while Swedish news agency TT said amounted to 1.3 million Swedish crowns (\$190,000).

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	Chico
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Court Breakout
PRAYER TIMES	
04:52	Fajr
06:12	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:25	Dhuhr
14:12	Asr
16:36	Maghreb
17:57	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellah, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622656	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62341	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 62543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751	
St. Ann International Church Tel. 653226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623504, 654932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A depression over Cyprus accompanied by a cold front will affect Jordan as of Wednesday evening, therefore a drop in temperature will occur and rain will fall in the northern parts extending to the south of Jordan. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman it will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance to a scattered showers of rain are expected. Winds will be northerly changing to southerly and sea rough.	
Min/Max temp. Amman ..... 04 / 10	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Rami Masawi	894388
Dr. Salman Al Dehbi	76751
Dr. Basim Karadimah	796200
Dr. Saad Ali	788285
Firas pharmacy	661912
Furudis pharmacy	778334
Al Azzam pharmacy	637035
Natrosk pharmacy	626672
Al Salma pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Natrosk pharmacy	626672
Najib pharmacy	847632
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Al Salma pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
Natrosk pharmacy	626672
Najib pharmacy	847632

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	64262
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shamsani	6641714
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	643845
Al-Musior Hospital	6672279
Amman, Marks	89161715
The Islamic, Abdali	6617777
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511/26
Army, Marks	89161715
Ocean Asia Hospital	602240/90
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)903560
Al-Sina Hospital	(09)980732
Al-Hayat Modern Hospital	(09)993939
RUH:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272725
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

Other Flights (Terminal 2)		06:15	Boeing
		16:25	Calcutta
05:05	Dubai (AZ)	11:30	Sanaa
06:55	Karachi (PI)	12:00	Jeddah
09:25	Cairo (MS)	13:00	Kuwait
10:30	Jeddah (SU)		
10:30	Sanaa (TY)		
12:00	Damascus (PI)		
18:10	Paris, Damascus (AP)		
18:30	Vienna, Larnaca (OS)		
19:50	Beirut (ME)		

MARKET PRICE	
Upper/lower price in the p.p.	
Apple (red)	70
Banana	60
Beans (Mekmama)	240
Beans	20
Cabbage	60
Carrot	13
Cauliflower	12
Cucumbers (large)	150
Cucumbers (small)	220
Onions	200
Garlic	220
Grapes	200
Lemons	150
Marrows (large)	200
Marrows (small)	200
Onions (dry)	200
Orange	200
Pepper (hot)	200
Pepper (sweet)	150
Potato	200
Tomato	200
Figs	200
Grapes	200
Spinach	200
Mint	200
Great Olive	200

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Berlin, Rome (RJ)
10:15	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30	Istanbul (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:30	Colombo (RJ)
15:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
16:00	Riyadh (RJ)
18:15	New Delhi (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)

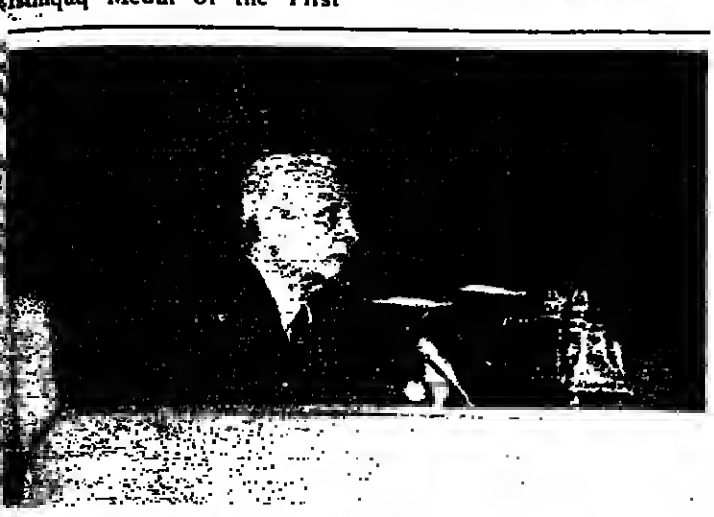
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:25	Berlin, Rome (RJ)
08:05	Damascus (RJ)



# Home News

## King honours Indonesian air force commander

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Tuesday the commander of the Indonesian Air Force and the Indonesian Deputy Chief of staff for planning affairs, King Hussein conferred upon the two Indonesian officers the Order of the First Class of the Indonesian Independence Medal of the First Class.



Speaker of the Senate: Ahmad Al Lawzi

## Senate swears in new members and appoints committee to reply to King's speech

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament held a session Tuesday attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and cabinet members following the speech from the Throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein at a joint Parliament session. At the outset of the session, House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi read out a Royal decree appointing Ibrahim Ayoub and Abdul Majid Shoman as new House members succeeding Khalil Salem and Mohammad Kamal who died recently. The House also elected a committee made up of Ahmad Obeidat, Kamel Sharif, Saeed Tal, Jumaa Hammid and Hosni Ayyash to prepare a reply speech to the King's Speech from the Throne. Addressing the House, Mr. Lawzi said that the current Parliament meeting was the last in the 11th session which he described as extremely important in view of the topics on the agenda. "The deeper we delve into democracy the more responsibilities we will have to carry because Parliament is determined to pursue all efforts along the course to give democratic rule its true meaning at a time when the country pursues its efforts towards reconstruction and development," said Mr. Lawzi. Mr. Lawzi said that the current session was expected to present further challenges and responsibilities for the Upper as well as the Lower Houses of Parliament. He said this calls for further efforts on the part of all members so that the two houses can deal with the additional burdens on the agenda.

## Crown Prince meets Iraqi officials back from U.N.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Tuesday Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahhaf who arrived in Amman on their way to Baghdad after attending a United Nations session. The meeting reviewed Arab and international affairs. Prince Hassan said the Middle East region, despite its importance, will become secondary if conflicts continue as they are at the present. Prince Hassan pointed to racial, ethnic and religious conflicts in various parts of the world. He also highlighted the world's respect for Jordan's national and balanced stands on events in the Middle East. Mr. Aziz briefed the Crown Prince on the situation in Iraq, stressing his country's desire to work with the U.N. to lift the embargo imposed on it since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Mr. Aziz and Mr. Sahhaf later left Amman for Baghdad. The two officials were seen off at Amman airport by the secretary general of the foreign ministry, senior officials and Iraq's ambassador to Jordan. On Monday, the two officials were received by His Majesty King Hussein at an audience which discussed development on Arab and international affairs. Mr. Aziz who addressed the United Nations Security Council in New York last week said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he felt there was a certain degree of understanding in Jordan of Iraq's suffering. The major problem facing Iraq, he said, was the position of the United States, Britain and France which want to keep the Iraqi premier expressed optimism, saying the incoming administration of President-elect Bill Clinton was showing a better understanding of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

## DEF to increase employment fund

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — A decision by the board of directors of the Employment and Development Fund (DEF) to raise the fund's resources by JD 6 million in the coming year is designed to widen the margin of beneficiaries among needy families and help deal with poverty in the Kingdom, according to DEF Director General Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash. Dr. Abu Ayyash told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the fund's total capital will be increased in 1993 from JD 7 million to JD 13 million of which JD 12 million will finance projects by individuals and the rest will be undertaken by societies and groups. It is not only the Jordanian treasury that finances the fund's capital, but the DEF has been receiving substantial aid from the German Development Bank and grants from European Community, said Dr. Abu Ayyash. Since March 1992, the DEF received 1,775 applications by individuals to set up income-generating projects costing nearly JD 11.2 million and the DEF is currently processing 990 of these applications which will cost some JD 6 million, he said. Dr. Abu Ayyash was speaking one day after the DEF board submitted its report to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry during which various aspects of the fund's projects were reviewed. With the increase in the capital in 1993, the DEF plans first to widen the margin of needy beneficiaries receiving loans to start projects, and second will try to be more flexible in demanding collateral as guarantees for repayment. Dr. Abu Ayyash pointed out. Asked about the main targeted areas for such loans, he said that rural regions especially those in the south and the badia districts of Jordan will get substantial aid because it is there where pockets of poverty are concentrated. Asked about the progress of projects already financed by the DEF, Dr. Abu Ayyash said that nearly 72 per cent were doing well and repaying loans. He noted that 80 per cent of the debtors are paying back their dues regularly. He said that people starting businesses employing one or two persons will get no more than JD 6,000 but those starting business employing more than two workers could receive a JD 20,000 loan for their business. Dr. Abu Ayyash pointed out that a borrower has to provide collateral in the form of real estate or a sponsor to ensure repayment. "We offer our loans to the beneficiaries to be paid back over a period of seven years in easy monthly installments with a two year grace period but we also charge a 6.5 per cent interest on the loans to ensure sufficient capital for the benefit of other needy families in the future," Dr. Abu Ayyash said. He added that at least one third of the loans demanded by beneficiaries are for agricultural and livestock projects. "In the coming year, the DEF hopes to enlist non-governmental organisations to help to initiate what is called micro projects for the very needy people who are in no position to provide collateral or provide funds to start any work," said Dr. Abu Ayyash. The DEF fund, report submitted to the prime minister, pledged that the coming year will witness a widening of the margin of people benefiting from projects. The report further noted that projects employing the large number of workers will be given priority.



Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash

## 'Jordanian journalists still jailed'

By Peter Saiers  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Money rather than politics prompted the eleven Jordanian prisoners held in Kuwait to work for the Iraqi-run newspaper Al Nidaa during the Gulf crisis, according to their colleague, Nicola Nasser. The prisoners were found guilty of being involved in a "criminal project" in trials held "defective" by international human rights organisations. The Jordan Press Association (JPA) earlier this month joined the organisations in calling for their release. Mr. Nasser, a veteran Jordanian journalist who worked in Kuwait before the invasion and who stayed during the occupation said that his colleagues worked at Al Nidaa not as a political statement but because "they needed their salary." Al Nidaa was the only newspaper allowed to operate during the seven-month takeover. Mr. Nasser pointed out that none of the imprisoned Jordanians wrote for the newspaper but were employed as editors, typesetters and other officials. "They wrote nothing against Kuwait," he said. The JPA was sent a demand for their release to the Foreign Ministry and international press organisations. An official at the ministry said the letter was forwarded last week to the Kuwaiti embassy, but the embassy made no comment. Al Nidaa was set up following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and ceased publication shortly before the war. The newspaper carried daily pictures of President Saddam Hussein and at times ridiculed the Al Sabah family and Saudi Arabia King Fahd. Following the Al Sabah family's restoration to power all those connected with Al Nidaa were arrested and charged with collaborating with Iraq. Out of 24 employees tried under martial law, six were sentenced to death, 10 were jailed for 10 years and eight were acquitted. The presiding judge called the newspaper "a criminal project." In June 1991, the human rights group Amnesty International called for a halt to the martial law court trials "on the grounds that proceedings were defective in the pre-trial period, during the hearings themselves, and afterwards in the lack of the defendants' right to appeal to a higher tribunal," according to Amnesty reports. Kuwait's Emir in the same month under international pressure, commuted all death sentences to life imprisonment. Families are in a catch-22 situation, according to Mr. Nasser and human rights groups. Though they would like to see more being done to secure their relatives' release, they fear Kuwaiti retribution against their loved ones. An Amnesty report released in October 1991 highlighted the case of Usam Suhail Hussain, a Palestinian who was arrested in 1991 for working at Al Nidaa. According to the report, he was held incommunicado for five months and "is said to have been tortured with electric shocks, beaten repeatedly and burned with cigarettes and is alleged to have been threatened with further ill treatment if he mentioned the torture during his trial." Mr. Hussain was one of those sentenced to death in a martial law court but later given a term of life imprisonment. Mr. Nasser recounted similar scenarios of torture and maltreatment. The families of the prisoners, several of whom now live in Jordan, have been denied Kuwait entry visas to visit their relatives. The wife of one of the detainees spoke this week with the Amman-based Arab Human Rights Commission and said that her husband is doing well. The International Red Cross sends "family messages" to and from the prisoners and visits them "on a regular basis," said Mr. Michel Ductaux, director of the Amman chapter. The following is a list of the Jordanian prisoners. Life imprisonment: Abdul Rahman Al Hussein, Fawaz Bseiso, Ahmad Abed Mustafa, Osama Suhail, 10 years: Ghazi Alameddin, Hassan Al Khalil, Dawud Sulaiman Alqurba, Muhammad Zahran, Ahmad Hanun, Wafa Al Asl, Thikrayat Harb. Also imprisoned for 10 years is the Iraqi Ibtisam Adadchil.

## Nurses graduation due at RCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Another batch of nursing instructors will graduate Wednesday from the Institute of specialised nursing studies (ISNS) at a ceremony to be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Also graduating at the same ceremony will be a group of nurses who underwent a Ministry of Health course in primary health care. The Queen will distribute the diplomas to the graduates of both courses with awards for those excelling in their training performance during the ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The nursing institute was built in 1988 at the overall cost of \$6.5 million provided by the United States Agency for International Development USAID. The institute has graduated more than 70 students who are now employed in health centres and hospitals in Jordan. U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison will attend the graduation ceremony Wednesday and deliver an address as will health minister Aref Bataineh, said ISNS Director Hudab Abu Hamdeh. Last year, the Health Ministry estimated that the Kingdom would be in need of at least 4,000 nurses by the end of the present century. The present number is barely 2,360, but the nursing colleges are turning out more and more graduates are employed in various public and private health centres. Jordan has three nursing colleges turning out a large number of nurses and midwives together with two nursing faculties at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University Science and Technology. Association President Walid Abdul Hadi denied that the two lawyers visit to the West Bank was ordered by the council and he said that any lawyer can visit the occupied territories when he or she receives a visit permit. Mr. Hawatmeh who is the association's vice president said the association members in the West Bank had requested that he and his colleague count the votes and it was during the counting process that Israel's television filmed the occasion without their knowledge.

## Income tax department registers increase in payments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The income tax department Tuesday announced that its income tax collections in the first 11 months of this year amounted to JD 104,699,100 which exceeded estimates at the beginning of the year. Department Director Mansour Haddadin said that between January and end of November last year, the department collected JD 88,607,364, which means that this year's collections so far have registered an increase of 18.16 per cent over last year's total figures. He said that in November this year, the department collected JD 6,062,899 compared with JD 3,982,337 in the same month of 1991, which means that the past month's collection registered an increase of 52.25 per cent. While voicing satisfaction with the good results achieved, Mr. Haddadin urged tax payers to submit their income statements and arrange to pay their dues within the first few months of each year in order to benefit from the exemptions and discounts offered them by the department. He also warned those delaying settlement against further procrastination noting that they could face fines and other legal procedures. In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Haddadin said that the department was expected to collect JD 110 million by the end of 1992, thus exceeding the 1991 figures of JD 93 million by JD 17 million. Mr. Haddadin said that those who cannot pay their accumulated dues can reach an arrangement with the department by instalment but, failing to pay by the deadline will risk paying fines at the rate of 1 per cent a month. In 1993, Mr. Haddadin noted tax payers will continue to enjoy exemptions and discounts reaching up to six per cent if due are paid in the first month of the year.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Hamoud Chantout at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Salman Abbas and Hassan Eid Alwan at Alfa Art Gallery.

## Arabiyyat reelected House speaker

(Continued from page 1)

calculations and predictions made prior to the opening of Parliament. Mr. Fakir, who served as minister of Islamic Affairs in 1990, received 18 votes. Three ballots were either blank or had "no-one" written on them. The only deputy who did not attend the speakership election was Amman Deputy Laith Shbeilat. Mr. Arabiyyat's election was in many ways a foregone conclusion. Backed by his own 22-member bloc — the largest in the House — the former academician-turned-politician and senior Brotherhood leader also managed to obtain support from many non-Islamists. Other than the Brotherhood bloc, Arabiyyat received the support of almost all the 10 deputies "who serve in the cabinet of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Dr. Arabiyyat also received votes from members in the four other political groupings in the House. In addition, a Balqa deputy, Dr. Arabiyyat, is known to be supported by other parliamentarians. All eight Balqa district deputies were believed to have cast their votes in his favour in line with the political tradition that forbids voting against someone from your own district in such an election. It was apparently that Dr. Arabiyyat had no "real" opposition. After attempts to form a non-Islamist coalition to field one candidate failed to materialise last week, two of four deputies seeking speakership withdrew from the race. Parliamentary insiders believe that at least one of the two, Karak Deputy Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, could have had a sporting chance if all non-Islamists rallied behind him. "The political will to change Arabiyyat was not there," said Mohammad Abu Oleim, a member of the 15-member Constitutional Bloc, which cast its votes, almost entirely, in favour of the incumbent. While Dr. Arabiyyat is popular with the government because of his perceived pro-establishment and anti-revolutionary approach in both action and speech, the consequences of his reelection could be more indicative than many in the government perceived, political analysts say. "In the last two weeks we had a few 'small-time' elections," said one leading analyst. "Student elections were held in Irbid and municipal elections took place in Karak, which is traditionally secular in its voting patterns. Islamists and Islamist-backed candidates won the vast majority of the votes in both elections, noted the analyst, who preferred anonymity. "Now this is the third victory of the Islamists in two weeks," he said. The boost to the confidence of the Islamic movement or movement in the Kingdom is tremendous, some observers believe. Despite warnings by His Majesty King Hussein to political groups advocating a non-pluralistic society, the pro-establishment political groupings appear to be crumbling or ceding influence to the Islamists, secular thinkers say. "Many people believe that the only way to be elected or reelected in next summer's legislative elections will be to get the support of the Islamists because they are motivated and have loyal voters," said a member of the House who predicts half of the next parliament will consist of Brotherhood members and Islamists. "We are still haunted by years of absence of political freedoms," said Deputy Tarawneh. "The Brotherhood was organising while many of us were in prison and this society will pay the price of that for a long time to come." While officially in favour of an Islamic state, Brotherhood in Jordan has diluted reference to such plans and has concentrated on changing and formulating social, education and economic laws which govern Jordanian society.

## Lawyers criticised for appearing on Israeli TV

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Two members of the Jordanian Bar Association Adib Hawatmeh and Mazen Irshaidat are coming under intense criticism by members of the bar for their appearance on Israeli television in the occupied West Bank on Nov. 20. Bar association sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Hawatmeh and Mr. Irshaidat were invited by the association in the occupied territories to attend lawyers election there. The two lawyers said that they were helping to count the votes when an Israel television crew filmed the occasion, but they denied that they gave any statements to the Israeli media. The Bar Association elections in the occupied West Bank were held four months before the elections in Jordan, but the two associations continue to be considered as one despite Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties in 1988. The association in Jordan which was established in 1950 is gearing up for its own elections in March 1993. Bar Association sources said that talk about Mr. Hawatmeh and Mr. Irshaidat's appearance on Israeli television overshadowed the current campaign for the March elections. Some lawyers said that the incident was not only disturbing the association members but was also creating trouble for the association council which was blamed for sending the two lawyers to the West Bank in the first place. Association President Walid Abdul Hadi denied that the two lawyers visit to the West Bank was ordered by the council and he said that any lawyer can visit the occupied territories when he or she receives a visit permit. Mr. Hawatmeh who is the association's vice president said the association members in the West Bank had requested that he and his colleague count the votes and it was during the counting process that Israel's television filmed the occasion without their knowledge.

## Iraqi musicians to give classical concert at RCC

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The last month of the year, usually rich in musical events, starts this week with an interesting classical performance. The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation is presenting a piano and cello concert at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on Wednesday. Iraqi musicians Ali Hussein Musa, cello, and Mohammad Othman Siddek, piano will play works by Vivaldi, Beethoven, Franck, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Arutunian. French composer Faure and the Armenian Arutunian are the only contemporary composers on the list. Gabriel Faure died in 1924 and although very famous in France, he is less known to audiences abroad. Yet he has written some of the most beautiful music of this century. Mr. Siddek will play "Elegy" by Faure, a piano solo. It is interesting to note that in the four or five concerts given this year in Amman by Iraqi musicians, modern music has always taken a leading role. Fine contemporary works by Russian composers have always been presented by the Iraqis, which is probably an influence of the country where they studied music. Piano solo and cello and piano performances will alternate on Wednesday's programme. Mr. Siddek is a pianist and conductor. He holds a Master's degree in both disciplines and has extensive experience playing as a soloist with international orchestras in Germany, Morocco, Hungary and other countries. He conducted the Iraq National Symphony Orchestra and has written ballet and symphonic music works. Cellist Ali Hussein Musa graduated from Moscow. He teaches the cello and has participated in several national and international events. A member of the Baghdad Chamber Orchestra, he is also a very active writer and has produced numerous books on various music subjects. Music lovers in Amman still remember the superb performance of two other Iraqi musicians, last October, when Otai Haddan on piano and Aram Zarasian on violin enchanted the audience with their warm, expressive, and tasteful playing. Siddek and Musa's concert is expected to be in the same line.

## Centre for International Studies established at RSS

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Centre for International Studies (CIS) has recently been established at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) with the purpose of conducting research studies related to economic and social developments in the international arena, with particular emphasis on the economic communities and countries of central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe. "This is intended to garner information on these countries and communities with the purpose of identifying suitable means for developing economic and cultural relations with them," a recent newsletter reported. The CIS aims at conducting analytical studies related to strategic and political developments occurring in these regions. It will also organise and participate in seminars and symposiums tackling issues related to its scope of interest and publish its findings. The major activities of the CIS in 1992 and 1993 can be summarised as follows: 1. Preparing reports, facts, and figures on central Asian republics which acquired independence in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. 2. Studying economic relations between Jordan and the European Community countries. 3. Issuing bulletins summarising the history of the peoples and countries of central Asia and the Caucasus. 4. Conducting brief studies on important regional world blocs such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Association of South-East Asia Nations, Economic Cooperation Organisation, U.N. social and economic commissions.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- Prince Abdullah visits Sharif Zeid**  
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Tuesday visited the Prime Ministry where he held a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.
- President of Jordan Red Crescent returns from Geneva**  
AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura returned to Amman from Geneva Tuesday after chairing the meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement which was held there last week. Dr. Abu Qoura said the meeting discussed issues related to holding the 26th international conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The meeting, he said, has decided to invite some governments which are signatories to the Geneva Conventions to a meeting in Geneva ahead of holding the conference.
- Two civil registration offices open**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Two civil registration offices in Al Masharef and Sama Al Sarhan areas started Tuesday offering services to 40,000 people living in the two areas. Director General of the Civil Registration and Passports Department Nasouh Mubayeddin said the two offices were opened as part of the department's administrative reform plan.
- Directors of Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture to meet in Amman**  
AMMAN (Petra) — The directors of Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture will gather in Amman Wednesday to participate in a seminar which will discuss the role of their chambers in the economies of Arab countries. The two-day seminar will discuss working papers dealing with the role of the private sector in building the infrastructure in the Arab World.
- Workshop on educational research to open in Amman**  
AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on developing Arab capabilities in the field of educational research will start Saturday at the National Centre for Educational Research and Development. Director of the Centre Victor Billeh said the workshop which is organised jointly by the centre and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will discuss several working papers on the importance of educational data. He said delegations from Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Tunisia and Jordan will participate in the six-day workshop.
- Swedish youth group visits University of Jordan**  
AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Higher Council of Swedish Youth visited Tuesday the University of Jordan. The delegation toured the university's students' activities complex, library and museums and was briefed on their role in academic and cultural fields.
- Aqaba festival begins Friday**  
AQABA (Petra) — The second Aqaba festival will start its activities in the port city on Friday. The ten-day festival will include seminars, lectures and exhibitions of plastic art and traditional handicrafts.
- AIDS seminar in Salt**  
SALT (Petra) — A seminar on AIDS was held Tuesday at Salt city on the occasion of the International AIDS Day. The seminar, which was organised by the Balqa Health Department aimed at spreading awareness among the public of the disease.
- Presentation of state awards for the arts due Wednesday**  
AMMAN (Petra) — A group of prominent poets, writers and artists will receive Wednesday the state awards in special ceremony organised by the Ministry of Culture. The minister announced the names of the 13 winners whom were picked up from 39 candidates in poetry, scientific, research and literary fields.

## U.S. Marine force headed for Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

organised factions under international control and disarming the irregular forces and gangs, he said. Diplomats hoped to reach a decision by Friday. Andre Erdos, Hungarian ambassador and current president of the 15-member Security Council, acknowledged the risk of a U.N. military force getting involved in a conflict with the clans and armed gangs. "If you want to get involved in certain crisis situations like the one in Somalia... you have to take a certain risk," Mr. Erdos said in an interview with British radio. "But our premise is that if we go in, if we secure the ports, if we secure the infrastructure, the roads leading to certain critical places in the countryside, we will be able to do it militarily. There's no question." It would be the first time the Security Council has authorised full-scale military intervention to support humanitarian activities. The council approved force in Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect relief convoys but did not require a unified command under a member state or the U.N. flag.



By Dr. Abdalla Malki

## Jordan Times

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### Economic Forum

## The abuse of budget deficits

IN the IMF-dominated economic culture of the last decade, no economic concept has been as abused as the "budget deficit." Probably it is not the IMF to blame for that, but its disciples in the less-developed countries deserve the blame. In advanced countries there is no way to mislead the public or the economists about that as is the case in the developing ones.

If we open the Yearbook of International Financial Statistics for 1992 which is published by the IMF itself, we will find a table on pages 142-143 titled "Central Government Deficit/Surplus." The table presents the fiscal deficit or surplus in the period 1975-1991 for 137 countries. The table includes 1,463 observations. The deficits make up 85 per cent of these observations. In other words the budget deficit is the norm of the hour all over the world. In the group of industrial countries, the percentage rises to 88 per cent which means that budget deficits are common place in advanced countries more than in developing ones. Nevertheless, no countries thunder in the former similar to those that rage in the developing countries. One can be quite sure that developing countries are a field where the IMF tests its "weapons" and ideas and carries out its experiments.

The most misunderstood, abused or misused aspect of the budget deficit is what we call the indiscriminate interpretation of this concept. If the budget deficit is really as bad as the disciples of

the IMF want us to believe, then the above-mentioned table means that the world economy must have been, and since a very long time, in an appalling state of shambles, advanced countries not excluded. But it is not.

The basic thing about the budget deficit is not the deficit per se but, firstly, what it financed and, secondly, how it was financed. A deficit which opened up because there was a need to finance capital spending, properly defined, is a virtuous deficit while the contrary holds true when it finances current expenditures. The budget deficit, and every other deficit, is necessarily financed from borrowing: it is something when the treasury borrows from its citizens and companies to finance its deficit but quite another to borrow externally, in which case it runs political risks. These technical aspects are normally overlooked when the budget deficit is appraised in the context of developing countries and adjustment programmes whereby it is treated as the most cardinal, destructive and untolerable economic evil.

The respected American economist John H. Makin is quoted (Business Week, November 30, 1992) as saying that fiscal orthodoxy, that is the notion that reducing budget deficits is always a good idea, is dominating global economic policymaking at the very time it seems clearly inappropriate. Makin notes that Keynes' basic insight was that government

fiscal policy should be used actively as a "countercyclical" in both to counteract slowdowns via deficit expansion and to tame booms via budgetary restraint. Policymakers perverted Keynesianism in the 1950s and 1970s by failing to switch to fiscal restraint on the upside of the cycle, eventually causing inflation to explode.

The problem, says Makin, is that the trauma of that experience has led policymakers to reject the validity of Keynes' original message regarding the need for fiscal stimulus during downturns. As the sluggish world economy weakens further, governments continue to favour deflationary fiscal policies (that cutting the budget deficit).

The experience of the stagflation of the 1970s led to the monetarism under Thatcherism and Reaganomics throughout the 1980s and well into the 1990s. In the course of that, a dramatic switch to an extreme version of market economy has been successfully promoted across the world. Now, the promise Harvard economist, Professor John K. Galbraith, tells us, is that what is needed from now on is a mixed economy (See Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, 26-27, 1992).

The economic role of the state has been eroded more than should be. Plausibly and hopefully, a new era of economic enlightenment is dawning.

## Strengthening democracy

THE MAJESTY King Hussein's Speech from the Throne addressed to the last ordinary session of the 11th Parliament was basically an outline of the government's achievements on all levels and a blueprint for future action and policies. In this sense the King's speech portrayed a realistic picture of the nation coupled with well articulated hopes and aspirations for the future. It is now up to the Parliament and government to build on past gains and translate the expectations for the future into realities in due course. Against the backdrop of accelerated economic development and growth in 1992, there is still confidence that 1993 may turn also into a prosperous year for the people of Jordan.

On the regional level, there are still efforts being exerted, the King assured the country, to alleviate inter-Arab problems and raise relations onto a new and more positive plateau in spite of all the obstacles that lie in the path. More important and pressing, of course, is the continuation of the democratic process in the Kingdom on a sound and responsible basis. In this context the Speech from the Throne cannot be read or interpreted in isolation from the previous speeches of the King which erected permanent landmarks upon the national political landscape. Both the central government, representing the executive branch of government, as well as Parliament, representing the legislative branch, are now duty bound to construct upon both the Speech from the Throne and the previous speeches of King Hussein. After a break from parliamentary life, the two chambers of Parliament should be refreshed to carry on with their duties — above all, the task of adopting the long awaited laws on freedom of the press and the State Security Court system.

In the course of the upcoming months, the country will be busy completing the task of establishing political parties in preparation for the next general elections. This goal could be easily classified as the most urgent unfinished business. Without it, the process of democratisation cannot be expected to be completed. With the projected conclusion of the parliamentary debate on the new law governing freedom of the press, the stage will be set for further consolidation of parliamentary life in Jordan. As a cornerstone of Jordan's domestic and foreign concerns, there is little doubt that this last ordinary session of Parliament will do its utmost to perform this unfinished business. The King's words, present and past, on the subject of democracy leave no room for doubt as to our determination to go ahead with the plans to strengthen and deepen democracy.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE exception of a handful of countries, those Islamic nations meeting in Jeddah Tuesday to discuss the plight of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are hypocrites, acting not from Islamic teaching but by the orders of the United States, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. No one can believe that these states are concerned about the fate of the Muslims of former Yugoslavia, thousands of miles away, when 18 million Muslim people in Iraq continue to face starvation and sanctions, noted the paper. Delegates to the Jeddah meeting are expected to shed crocodile tears over the plight of the Yugoslavs, but are not ready to raise a finger in support of the Iraqi children and old people who cry out for medicine and food that can put an end to the death of tens of thousands every year, the paper continued. Most of the Islamic states meeting in Jeddah, the paper said, are aligned behind the United States and the other colonial powers and take their orders from them, claiming that they support international legitimacy and take pity on the Muslim women and children of former Yugoslavia, but are not following the teachings of the Holy Koran. The speeches to be delivered in Jeddah will be characterised by falsehood and hypocrisy in the so-called defence of the Muslims of Yugoslavia, but not delegate dares to speak out in defence of the Iraqi people, the paper predicted. The Iraqi people are suffering largely as a result of the injustice being done to them by their Arab and Muslim brothers and not by foreign powers; and therefore, said the paper, one would have no hope of finding any words in the Jeddah final statement that can show signs of reconciliation among Arabs and Muslims or genuine solidarity in the face of common adversity.

ARAB COUNTRIES, particularly Egypt, are raising the hue and cry over Iran's armament programme, exactly as they did before colluding with the colonial powers to deal a military blow to Iraq, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Whoever is behind the media campaigns against Iran in Egypt and other states must be doing an excellent service to the United States and its allies which try by all means to maintain their troops on Arab soil at the expense of Arab dignity and to loot Arab oil wealth, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that the colonial powers find in the Iranian armament issue a fertile soil for planting horror in the hearts of the Gulf states, blackmailing them into purchasing Western weapons which, of course, cannot be used by these states due to lack of experience or because they are obsolete. By whipping up the Iran's armament programme, said the writer, the colonial powers are keeping the Gulf states under control, but they can, of course, also cause the Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran for allegedly threatening its neighbours. He said that should this happen at some time in the future, the U.S. will have prevented Iran, Iraq and a later stage Libya from selling oil, with the result that Washington will be holding the tabs over the world oil market, with vast influence over the destiny of Japan and Europe. When that stage has been reached, he concluded, nothing can stop America from perpetuating its evil hegemony over world affairs.

## King reviews government's achievements, sets forth future agenda

Following is the full text of the Speech from the Throne addressed by His Majesty King Hussein to the two chambers of Parliament on the opening of the fourth regular session of the eleventh national assembly.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

In the name of the Almighty God I declare open, this Regular Fourth Session of the Eleventh Jordanian Parliament, and express my appreciation for, and pride of the loyal Jordanian family who, through the unity of its members, their solidarity, their genuine attachment to their country, and their devotion to the basic principles upon which we agreed and to which we have been committed in thought, policies, and positions, have made a national legend. Today, I am here with you to resume together the process of construction and the fulfilment of the trust and the mission we undertook for the good of our proud Jordanian people and the glorious Arab Nation.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

Our country has since the opening of the previous Session of your august Assembly made significant strides in consolidating the democratic process, in the establishment of its various institutions, and the building of the state based on the rule of Law in which citizens enjoy freedom, equality, justice and security. We promulgated the Political Parties Law, which allows Jordanians to get involved in political activity through Jordanian parties that are truly national in their outlook, goals, conduct and funding, and which are committed to the Constitution and the National Charter; parties for which the country's interest and unity and cohesion of the Jordanian people reign supreme.

As democracy in Jordan has succeeded in encompassing various political trends and in launching the rational and responsible dialogue we witness today, it is worthy of our adhering to firmly and of consolidating it, in our consciousness and behaviour, and of protecting it from extremism, so that peaceful dialogue would become the tradition to which we resort in resolving every disagreement. We do this because of our conviction that violence and fanaticism do not solve any problem, that nobody has a monopoly of the truth, and that the wise decision pertaining to any matter is that which the majority of the people agrees upon. A vibrant nation can never concur on straying from the right path.

The Lower House of Parliament has completed the greater part of the debate on the new Press and Publication Draft Law which contains the necessary guarantees for free press and the freedom of expression within the context of national responsibility and professional code of conduct which should guide journalists' performance under all circumstances. A draft law for the establishment of a teachers' association will be submitted to your august Assembly during its current session. This draft will contribute to the achievement of additional guarantees and rights for teachers, establishing job security, continuity and advancement to a profession that has been revered by humanity through its long history. At the same time, it is expected that teachers will dedicate themselves to practice their noble educational mission with professionalism, patience and loyalty to the country and all its people. The government will also submit to you the

draft Labour law which will represent a step forward in organising workers' affairs, safeguarding their rights, while at the same time enhancing their role in supporting the national economy which will benefit from their productivity.

The government will introduce for your approval a draft law for Youth Care which aims at charting out a comprehensive strategy for youth and sports.

My government has abolished Martial Law, the 1955 Defence Law and all subsequent regulations, and has given its full support to the judiciary, including the enhancement of its status.

The General Amnesty Law was enacted in order to open a new page in our life, transcending the events of the recent past so that we can look forward to the future with the spirit of amity, loyalty, and responsibility, as well as strict adherence to the rule of law in this law-upholding state. In order to complete this process, and upon our directives, my government will act to commute sentences which were excluded from the General Amnesty, but this will be done within the context of protecting the interest of the society on the one hand, and the spreading of rejoice on the other; giving offenders another chance to join society after being rehabilitated as good law-abiding citizens. It is a sign of confidence and pride that the gates of freedom have been thrown wide open in our country transcending the confines of political human rights to a higher plateau, such as rights of children, women's care and the right of all people to equal access to public services and to live in a secure and clean environment.

It is with these objectives in mind that my government will complete the steps necessary for the establishment, in Amman, of a Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies in the Arab World, so that the edifice of democracy may be augmented and righteousness reinforced and the message we have carried throughout generations would be upheld.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

Stemming from faith in our Arab Legion, "the country's sword, shield and source of pride," and in order to assert the distinctive role of our Armed Forces in the defence of the homeland, the protection of its security and independence, and in the safeguarding of its accomplishments, my government has given the Armed Forces its utmost attention. It will continue to provide the Armed Forces with the means necessary to modernise and develop its ground, air and naval forces and to promote, to the highest standards, their achievement in professionalism, equipment and training. So that they will always be, as we wanted them to be, at the level commensurate with the responsibilities and the tasks facing them, and in order that this Arab Legion may remain, as ever, the embodiment of the ideals of gallantry, nobility as well as those of the Great Arab Revolt, defending the homeland and the nation. And when called upon to carry out responsibilities pertaining to peacekeeping in troubled spots on the globe, our Army will project Jordan's true image to these nations. Members of our Armed Forces are now deployed in former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Cambodia and Angola, fulfilling a great international role.

My government also fully realises the major and critical role played by the Jordanian Security Forces in performing their sacred duty in a democratic society, especially in maintaining law and order, promoting stability, defending the country and people,

while at the same time providing the proper atmosphere for economic prosperity and social progress. Therefore, they are the focus of our care and attention so that they will fully carry out their functions armed with right and law.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

During the last year, many changes occurred in the international situation. Countries have disappeared from the world map while new ones were born. Regional conflicts erupted and new world powers emerged. In the face of these political changes, the Arab World seems to be detached from what is taking place in the international environment. I am concerned that this historic moment may slip by without the Arab Nation having any role or input in shaping this changing world.

**"The General Amnesty Law was enacted in order to open a new page in our life, so that we can look forward to the future with the spirit of loyalty, responsibility and adherence to the rule of law. My government will act to commute sentences which were excluded from the General Amnesty, within the context of protecting the interest of the society."**

Henceforth, my government has called on our Arab brethren to transcend the current state of estrangement, work to revive Arab solidarity and reactivate the role of the League of Arab States. We are following this path out of Jordan's belief in its pan-Arab responsibilities, as the inheritor of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and the guardian of its ideas of independence, liberty and unity. We on our side will reciprocate any positive step taken by any Arab country in the direction of securing for our nation an active role in shaping future events.

My government will continue to work towards greater cooperation with all Arab and Muslim countries and peoples as well as with friendly countries on the basis of mutual respect, trust and common interests without interference in the internal affairs of others. My government will strengthen relations with the emerging countries in the wake of the latest international developments and will continue to participate in regional, pan-Islamic and international organisations in order to build a better world characterised by peace, amity and cooperation.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

My government has stressed the importance of administrative reform. At the beginning of the year, it published a document outlining the shortcomings of administration and laying out various measures to be adopted to remedy these deficiencies. This was done within the context of a comprehensive and well-defined plan emphasising the importance

of decentralisation, delegation of powers, simplification of procedures and reducing red-tape in official departments.

Regulations for establishing a new National Data Bank have been adopted, along with the regulations of the Administrative Inspection and Supervision Commission. The government has taken measures to review the regulations of the Legislation Board to render it more capable of carrying out its role, and to enable it to offer its legal advice to various branches of government.

The national plan for administrative training has also been drawn up, along with the national four-year plan for vocational and technical training which will go into effect upon approval of the 1993 national budget.

My government has been keen on taking the necessary legislative and executive measures aiming at safeguarding public funds and tightening internal audit. In doing this, it drew on the fruitful debate concerning the Audit Bureau which took place in the Lower House in the previous Extraordinary Session.

In the field of social development, my government has adopted a new approach which aims at achieving social justice in society, ensuring a fair geographical distribution of services, combating poverty, reducing the unemployment rate and creating new opportunities for employment. Accordingly, social services are viewed as an integral part of a package which is characterised by comprehensiveness and balance covering all sectors such as education, health, labour, social services, housing, Islamic Waqf, youth, culture and information.

My government has continued to provide educational services in their various fields and components. As a priority, it has focused on the construction of comprehensive school buildings, reducing the percentage of rented school buildings to a mere 21 per cent of the total number of schools in the Kingdom from the previous figure of 49 per cent. Thus, close to eighty per cent of our pupils have been given, for the first time, an opportunity to use new school buildings that meet the highest hygienic and educational standards.

My government has worked to advance teachers' training as part of the Educational Development Plan. As a result, this year 2,000 teachers have been trained to obtain specialised academic degrees. Additionally, 16,000 teachers have received intensive training to enhance their performance. The relevant training institutions will continue with their programmes involving a total of 17,000 teachers next year.

My government will continue to improve school curricula and textbooks, enhancing their levels to suit the needs of both the individual and society, presently and in the future, while taking into consideration the fact that the initial stage of this plan will be subject to reevaluation.

My government is reviewing legislation related to higher education for the purpose of granting our universities greater independence to maintain their distinctive role and to enable them to achieve their objectives and overcome obstacles facing them. Concerned authorities are also engaged in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of university education, both public and private, to chart out a future policy for this vital sector in our life.

Zarqa University will soon start tuition, thus joining other Jordanian universities. A new medical institution will be established at the University of Science and Technology to meet the adv-

anced medical needs of the northern part of our Kingdom. The institution will bear the dear name of the Founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, whom we all honour and cherish.

My government has formulated accreditation standards for our public and private universities in accordance with criteria set out by UNESCO experts and is also in the process of establishing national academic accreditation councils so that academic standards will be the same at both public and private institutions.

The government will double allocations set aside for the National Assistance Fund in order to secure more beneficial aid to the less fortunate. The government will also substantially increase allocations for the Development and Employment Fund whose by-laws have been adopted and drafted in a way that it will be a means for the creation of new employment opportunities for ambitious young people wishing to shoulder their responsibilities and to be productive.

Stemming from Jordan's belief in its Arab and Islamic mandate and in recognition of our distinctive position in the Muslim World, the government has maintained its genuine concern for Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem. It embarked on the restoration of the glorious Dome of the Rock with funding I personally felt most honoured to provide and which the Almighty has, graciously, assisted me in fulfilling this great responsibility. The government has augmented security around Al Aqsa Mosque, and has gone a long way in the process of documenting Islamic heritage to shield it against loss. It has taken steps to implement plans that aim at renovating historical mosques and tombs of the Prophet's devout companions embraced by our dear Jordanian land. The historical sites will remain as banners telling the story of Jordan's glorious history. Al Beit University will start functioning next year to become a centre for enlightened Islamic thought.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

The democracy which Jordan enjoys has provided the proper atmosphere for creative artists, intellectuals, writers and men of letters. Cultural life in the Kingdom has prospered. Festivals, cultural conferences, symposiums, theatre and art exhibitions have been organised in various parts of the country. The First Amman Cultural Symposium has been an important event in the endeavour which aims at strengthening interaction among Arab intellectuals and shedding light on the Jordanian cultural movement which is part and parcel of contemporary Arab and Muslim culture.

The various intellectual, literary and artistic activities that are taking place in Amman, along with the hosting of the next conference of the Arab Writers Union, place our capital at the forefront of flourishing centres of Arab culture. As an expression of its support for the literary movement, the government will try to finalise the Artists' Association draft law in order to organise their affairs and enhance their profession.

Out of its dedication to projecting Jordan's accurate image throughout the world and to ensure Jordan's regional and international presence, my government will soon acquire a special satellite channel. My government has, also, strengthened radio transmission which now covers all corners of the world. Local television transmission facilities will be set up in some governorates to ensure coverage in the northern and southern parts of our coun-

try. The government will promote the performance Jordan News Agency, I enable it to cope with developments, and make modern means of communication in its transmission to parts of the world.

Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

My government has, termination, undertake sures to deal with the imbalances in our economy resulting from reduced expatriates of Jordanian origin abroad, dependence on aid as well as the traditional markets of exports, industrial and of The government has, effect a comprehensive range programme for adjustment and recovery years 1992-1998. It aims at growth, raising living standards, securing new jobs, reducing depend foreign aid, increasing reliance, curbing inflation enhancing the Kingdom's currencies' reserves, providing basic social, extending aid to the ne conserving the utilita national resources. We fulfil that upon the implem of this programme, Jon enjoy further monetary stability, economic rec well as concomitant pr for all the people.

An objective evaluation performance of the 19 economy shows that achieved positive grow year. Gross Domestic will have achieved by this year an increase of a per cent due to increased by various sectors, say those of construction, ag and industry. It is expect domestic revenues will if for the first time in the Kingdom, to cover expenditures and finance 50 per cent of government vestment. The inflation n not exceed 4 per cent thus buting to price stability as to their gradual reduction.

My government has ease the burdens of foreign servicing. A part of offici ign debt has been reach and agreements have reached to reduce the bur commercial banks debt by orious still to be agreed. My government sought to domestic debt through ea payment and limiting bor ceilings to the lowest lev world, mentioning that the ber of new industrial con established this year has sed the combined num companies established dur previous four years alio. We should also cite the fa large numbers of tourist various parts of the wor arrived in Jordan which with its civilisation and her

Despite the burden imp our economy as a result return of our brethren wake of the Gulf war, we been able, thanks to God due to the efforts of our citizens, to cope with the consequences of this migration. A large number returnees have been integr areas of work and produc

My government has taken the task of repairi damage sustained by public ties and various sectors, say the agricultural sector, result of harsh weather cond last winter. It fulfilled its ment to exempt farmers large parts of the meins incurred on loans ent to them, and asked the Agral Credit Organisation to d its working capital, which

(Continued on page 5)



# Features

## ing sets forth future agenda

(Continued from page 4)

...counteracting...  
...expansion and...  
...to absorb the surplus of...  
...production of vegetables...  
...ing to switch...  
...ally causing...  
...the necessary measures...  
...courage farmers to grow...  
...cristable crops and which...  
...and long periods of storage.

...able Senators...  
...able Deputies...  
...government has, in accord...  
...with a well-defined prog...  
...worked to expand infras...  
...here, particularly to cope with...  
...economy...  
...the Gulf war. The Ministry...  
...the Ministry is working to...  
...the completion of the main...  
...network, and has also re...  
...carried out the necessary...  
...ance of roads throughout...  
...kingdom to repair damage...  
...last winter.

...da...  
...The government...  
...the prime...  
...New Ag...  
...to cope...  
...ments, and...  
...transmission...  
...world.

...urable...  
...to erect more desert...  
...urable...  
...rainfall and floods in...  
...areas. The government...  
...advised the investment plan...  
...Telecommunications Cor...  
...providing telephone ser...  
...for over 180,000 subscribers...  
...the next five years.

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...advised the investment plan...  
...Telecommunications Cor...  
...providing telephone ser...  
...for over 180,000 subscribers...  
...the next five years.

...the participation in pertinent...  
...conferences and symposiums...  
...as well as signing international...  
...ventions. In consistent with this...  
...I have signed the Hague Decla...  
...ation and I have participated in...  
...the Geneva Conference. Likewise...  
...my government has participated...  
...in the deliberations of the Earth...  
...Summit held in Brazil last June...  
...A national committee has, conse...  
...quently, been set up to follow the...  
...implementation of the summit's...  
...resolutions and recommenda...  
...tions. The government is a signa...  
...tory to the Climatic Change and...  
...Biological Diversification Agree...  
...ments, as well as the "Basel...  
...Agreement for the Disposal of...  
...Dangerous Waste and Controlli...  
...ng its passage across borders."...  
...We have also signed the Ramsar...  
...Agreement for the Protection of...  
...Humid Regions, as well as the...  
...Montreal Protocol for the Protec...  
...tion of the Ozone layer.

### Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

Jordan, to which we are proud...  
...to belong, has always been a...  
...springboard for pan-Arab...  
...thought, something we inherited...  
...from the Great Arab Revolt and...  
...strived to embody in order to...  
...achieve liberty, independence...  
...and unity for the Arabs.

Jordan's foremost dedication...  
...to defend the just causes of...  
...the nation has stemmed from its...  
...genuine intellectual heritage...  
...This heritage has motivated the...  
...Hashemites and the Jordanian...  
...people to defend Palestine and...  
...the Palestinian people, consider...  
...ing the defence of the Palestin...  
...ian cause an expression of their...  
...dedication to pan-Arab ideals...  
...which they have always manifest...  
...ed since the turn of this century...  
...The Founder of the Kingdom, the...  
...late King Abdullah Bin Al-Husse...  
...in led Jordan's struggle to rescue...  
...Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque...  
...from occupation. He embraced...  
...the soil of Jerusalem when he...  
...fell as a martyr on its cherished...  
...land. In the same way, his father...  
...the elder of the Hashemites and...  
...the leader of the nation, has ch...  
...osen to be buried in this blessed...  
...land.

We followed the steps of the...  
...fathers and forefathers in defence...  
...of the Palestinian land and the...  
...rights of the Palestinian people...  
...The blood of the twin peoples...  
...of Jordan and Palestine has mix...  
...ed on the Palestinian soil.

While we in Jordan are worki...  
...ng in cooperation with the...  
...Palestinians to restore the land...  
...and the national rights of our...  
...brothers at the forefront of wh...  
...ich is the restoration of Arab...  
...sovereignty over the City of Jeru...  
...salem, we assert that we are...  
...seeking an honourable, just sol...  
...ution, based on right, not on mi...  
...ght and the imbalance of power.

We always affirmed our stand...  
...regarding the peace process; a...  
...stand grounded in international...  
...legitimacy which is embodied in...  
...United Nations resolutions, in...  
...particular, Resolutions 242 and...  
...338 and the principle of "land for...  
...peace." It calls for the achiev...  
...ement of a permanent, honourable...  
...peace, on the basis of justice and...  
...right and acceptable to future...  
...generations. Such a peace has to...  
...be comprehensive, in terms of the...  
...participants and issues, and en...  
...sures the restoration of the occu...  
...pied lands to their rightful own...  
...ers, enabling the Palestinian peo...  
...ple to practice their legitimate...  
...right to self-determination on...  
...their national soil. We do this in...  
...full coordination with Arab par...  
...ties participating in the peace...  
...process: Syria, Lebanon, the...  
...Palestine Liberation Organisat...  
...ion and the Arab countries inv...  
...olved in the peace process.

On the basis of the historical...  
...mission of our nation, Jordan's

Arab Islamic heritage has always...  
...prompted to support the nation's...  
...causes everywhere. This has been...  
...the motive for our unabated...  
...efforts to alleviate the suffering...  
...of brotherly Iraqi people, and our...  
...firm and unequivocal stand in...  
...support of Iraq's territorial in...  
...tegrity and our opposition to all...  
...attempts directed toward its par...  
...titioning as well as infringement...  
...on its sovereignty and independ...  
...ence. We adopt the same stand...  
...towards brotherly Muslim nations...  
...that suffer from repression and...  
...from civil wars or foreign en...  
...croachment such as Somalia and...  
...Bosnia and Herzegovina. We ext...  
...end all possible political, moral...  
...and material support to these...  
...peoples.

### Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,

Our country, which derives its...  
...strength from the people's com...  
...mitment and awareness, their un...  
...ity and the participation in...  
...decision-making, continue the...  
...process of development and con...  
...struction with courage, loyalty...  
...and dedication. They are chal...  
...lenging obstacles and supporting...  
...justice everywhere. While doing...  
...all of this, they are inspired by...  
...the spirit of our faith, the ideals...  
...of the Great Revolution and the...  
...sacrifices of the fathers and fore...  
...fathers for the sake of liberty...  
...independence and better future.

Wishing you success in your...  
...endeavours and deliberations and...  
...beseeching the almighty to set...  
...you firm on the path of righteous...  
...ness.

Peace be upon you, and God's...  
...blessings and salutations.

## Wasfi Al Tal remembered

By Masa Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On November, 28, 1971 Wasfi Al Tal, then Jordan's prime minister, was assassinated by three men while heading for a meeting of Arab defence ministers at the Arah League headquarters in Cairo.

Wasfi Al Tal "was a martyr of Palestine," said Mr. George Haddad, a leading columnist with Al Dustour daily, at a seminar held at the Studies and Research Centre for Islamic Work on Monday. Mr. Haddad described Wasfi Al Tal as a "statesman who was willing to do anything for the sake of his nation when most politicians expect their country to do something for them."

"Wasfi," said Mr. Haddad, "was a person who had sacrificed all that he had to serve the nation. He was a man of wide experience, strong personality and self-confidence which he protracted from his faith in his country and its potential and ability to rise, develop and survive."

Wasfi Al Tal, born in 1921 to a famous poet father, held the office of prime minister three times. He first became prime minister in January 1962, serving till March 1963. According to historian Suleiman Musa, during his first term, Wasfi Al Tal devoted his first term to massive administrative reforms. In his second term, from February 1965 till March 1967, he made relentless efforts to mend relations with Arab countries and the PLO, the historian said in his book



Wasfi Al Tal

"Figures From Jordan" published in 1986. Wasfi Al Tal was recalled again as prime minister following the fighting between the Jordan Armed Forces and Palestinian guerrillas in September 1970. His assassins belonged to a Palestinian group that call itself Black September.

Mr. George Haddad, who had a close association with Wasfi Al Tal, said that the late minister had made the Palestinian cause his mission during his life. "He saw the solution in

military terms. He called for transforming the society into a war society in which each and every member has to contribute in the military battle or the battle of production."

"This was the best and only solution. The battle should be our identity and the very meaning of our existence," Mr. Haddad quoted Wasfi Al Tal as saying, in a memo handed to his Majesty King Hussein in 1969.

Wasfi Al Tal had wide political, military, administrative and social experience, said Mr. Haddad. He attended the American University of Beirut, then a centre of Arab nationalism, and joined the British Army as an officer. He also joined the Salvation Army formed in Syria in the 1940s to help liberate Palestine.

His war experience was of basic significance to his personality development, according to historian Musa.

Mr. Haddad, at the conclusion of the seminar, said that "the people who loved Mr. Wasfi outnumbered the people who understood him."



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## Rabin wants Palestinians to lower goals

(Continued from page 1)

London meeting set

conditions "such as opening this terminal, in order to make it life easier wherever possible for the populace."

Mr. Rabin's strategy for solving the Palestinian problem, as it emerges from recent speeches, is to go step by step, hoping each move will build confidence and pave the way to the permanent settlement.

Unlike the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir, which claimed the occupied territories as Israel's by "divine right," Mr. Rabin has been careful not to spell out his vision of the future.

In a speech Sunday he did not even rule out Palestinian statehood, although he said it was a bad idea.

Talking to reporters Tuesday at the bridge, Mr. Rabin hinted that a visit by an Arab leader to Israel would do much to build Israeli confidence.

He recalled that 15 years ago President Anwar Sadat of Egypt "came to (occupied) Jerusalem, spoke from the podium of the Knesset (Israel's parliament), and convinced the people of Israel that he was ready in a most sincere way to make peace."

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of Mideast peace talks, will host a review of regional negotiations on such regional issues as refugees and weapons buildups with the parties in London Thursday and Friday, the State Department announced.

Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Japan, Canada, the European Community, the Gulf Cooperation Council, North African countries and Palestinians all have been invited.

The regional talks parallel Arab-Israeli peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington December 7.

Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian will head the U.S. delegation in the London meeting and Viktor Posavak, director of the Near East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, will head his government's group.

The regional talks, which also deal with the economies of the Middle East, the environment and water shortages, are designed to further Arab-Israeli cooperation by engaging them in addressing mutual problems.

## Yeltsin proposes compromise with congress

(Continued from page 1)

mic policy.

Under special powers that expired Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin had the power to issue economic legislation by decree, bypassing the often-lengthy parliamentary process.

In his five-point compromise, it appeared Mr. Yeltsin was offering to surrender few of his special powers. He proposed giving up his "special powers in the sphere of legislative regulation of economic reform," but also wanted to retain the ability to make economic

Mr. Yeltsin also proposed keeping his power to appoint regional executives and members of his cabinet — below the rank of prime minister — without legislative approval.

In his speech, Mr. Yeltsin also repeated his call for the congress to pass a law allowing private ownership of land. And he said the government planned to carry out its plans to privatise thousands of factories and businesses by the end of next year.

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Jabal Wailah - Opposite Luzzini Hospital - AMMAN



## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Former NBA guard banned for life

ATHENS (AP) — Former NBA guard Steve Burt has been banned for life from the Greek basketball league after testing positive for cocaine and hashish, the Greek Basketball Association said Monday. Burt, 30, was ordered to take a drug test by the prosecutor's office in the northern city of Salonica shortly after his Nov. 11 arrest on drug possession charges. The 6-foot-2 (188-centimetre) Burt left Greece for New York over the weekend and his team, Iraklis Salonica, announced it was looking for a replacement player. In his first season with Iraklis, Burt quickly became top scorer in the 14-team Greek First Division with 200 points in 10 games.

## Work to resume on Roland Garros extension

PARIS (R) — Work to extend facilities at Roland Garros for the French Open tennis championships, stopped nine months ago after a court injunction, will resume shortly following an appeal court ruling Monday. The French Tennis Federation (FTF) said they expected the work, which includes the building of an extra 10,000-seater show court and eight more training courts, to finish in time for the 1994 championships. The work was held up when local residents took out an injunction, upheld by a Paris court in February this year. But Monday's appeal court ruling gave the FTF the go-ahead to resume building.

## Carnevale knocks Gascoigne off pedestal

ROME (R) — England's Paul Gascoigne does not even bear comparison with Diego Maradona's boot, a striker who played with the Argentine for Napoli said Tuesday. It's absurd that people compare him to Maradona for he's not worth even Maradona's boot, former Italian international Andrea Carnevale told the Gazzetta dello Sport. Maradona was something completely different and I'm not saying this just because I thought Gascoigne played badly in the derby, said Carnevale, who played alongside Maradona in Napoli's 1987 league championship-winning side. Gascoigne, who plays for Lazio, and Carnevale of arch-rivals AS Roma were on opposite sides in Sunday's Roman derby, a 1-1 draw in front of 80,000 fans in the cauldron of the Olympic stadium.

## Jets defensive end paralysed

NEW YORK (R) — New York Jets defensive end Dennis Byrd, partially paralysed after suffering a neck injury in Sunday's game, faces surgery this week and doctors said Monday they were unsure if he would regain movement in his legs. Doctors at Lenox Hill hospital said at a news conference that Byrd had no movement in his lower extremities and only partial movement in his upper extremities. The prognosis for recovery is totally unknown, said Dr. Elliott Hersman, the Jets' orthopedist. We can't be sure if he will regain movement in his legs. An operation is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday to repair the fracture, doctors said. Byrd, 26, is being stabilised with a halo brace and has received medication to relieve swelling in the spinal cord.

## Olympic facelift for modern pentathlon

AMELIE-LES-BAINS, France (R) — Modern pentathlon, worried that it has become an outdated sport, is planning an Olympic facelift in an attempt to become more attractive. Faced with the possibility of losing Olympic status, the International Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon Union (UIPMB) held a make-or-break congress in southern France and came up with sweeping reforms. The UIPMB said it would propose to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that the sport is reduced from the traditional five days' duration to just one day at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Modern pentathlon comprises individual and team competitions in five disciplines — riding, fencing, shooting, swimming, and cross-country.

## Injured Weah out till New Year

PARIS (R) — Liberian striker George Weah will be out of action until the new year after injuring a knee at the weekend, his French club Paris St. Germain said Monday. Weah, regarded as the best striker in France since the departure of Jean-Pierre Papin to Italy, hurt his knee in Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Monaco, his old club. His injury is a big blow to Paris St. Germain's title hopes and particularly of their chances of reaching the UEFA Cup quarter-finals as both regular strikers will miss the third round, second leg match against Anderlecht December 8. French international David Ginola was sent off in the first leg which ended in a 0-0 draw.

## Bologna lead in Italian Basketball League

MILAN (AP) — Knorr Bologna moved into sole possession of first place in the Italian Basketball League by defeating Il Messaggero Roma 101-90, while defending champion Benetton Treviso lost 85-65 to Biadetti Montecatini. Former Los Angeles Laker guard Terry Teague scored only 10 points and Croatian forward Toni Kukoc added five, as Treviso suffered its third defeat of the regular season and slipped to second place in the overall standings. Italian forward Mario Boni, the league's leading scorer, had 23 points for Biadetti, while former NBA player Clemo Johnson added 11.

## UEFA to double European Championship to 16 teams

ISTANBUL (R) — UEFA has doubled the entry for the 1996 European Championship finals from eight to 16 nations, vice-president Antonio Matarrese said Monday. An increase in the number of national associations and popularity of the quadrennial competition is believed to have prompted the change. England host the next tournament.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OKAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSH  
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## RUBBER BRIDGE OR DUPLICATE?

Neither vulnerable. North deals.  
NORTH  
♠ Q 9 7  
♥ 8 4  
♦ A K Q 6 3  
♣ 5 4 2  
EAST  
♠ K J 10  
♥ 5 2  
♦ K Q J 10 6  
♣ 9 7 3 2  
SOUTH  
♠ A 8 6 3  
♥ A K J 10 8 6  
♦ A  
♣ 7 2  
The bidding:  
North Pass South Pass  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.  
We have remarked before that rubber bridge and duplicate are more like two different games than versions of the same game. That holds true for both the bidding and play. Suppose you arrive in six hearts at rubber bridge and in the final of a major pair championship. Would you play the hand the same way?

Note North's heart raise. South's

bidding showed a near-solid heart suit at least six cards long, so the doubler queen was excellent support. Indeed, in many partnerships North could have raised immediately with this bidding.

After the lead of the king of diamonds, an experienced rubber bridge player would make short shrift of the hand. With the ace of diamonds and draw trumps, then duck a club! As long as clubs are no worse than 4-2, declarer will score one spade, six hearts, one diamond and four clubs, and all is well.

What about at duplicate? First, declarer must decide whether the majority of the pairs are going to bid the slam. If the answer is no, declarer should play as safely as possible, i.e. exactly the same way as the hand would be played at rubber bridge.

Let's suppose that declarer concludes that most of the field will be in slam. Chances of a 3-3 club break are 26 percent. If the clubs are 4-2, declarer can still get home by ruffing a club and playing West to hold the king of spades. That gives declarer a combined 68 percent chance, good enough to try for the overtrick by going for an even club break. As the cards lie, South suffers a one-trick set, but should emerge with a near-average score.

## Liverpool could get European reprieve

LONDON (R) — Liverpool could get a European Cup Winners' Cup reprieve if UEFA find that Spartak Moscow, who beat the English side in the second round, fielded an ineligible player.

A spokesman for UEFA's control and disciplinary committee said in Bern Tuesday that European soccer's governing body were looking into the case of midfielder Mikhail Rusayev.

"It would appear that while (the player's) transfer details were in order, he did not apparently have the appropriate licence. We are investigating the matter and whether there has been an infringement of the rules," the spokesman said.

Rusayev, who came on as a substitute in both legs of the tie with Liverpool that Spartak won 6-2 on aggregate, joined the Russian team from German second division Oldenburg in the summer. Reports circulated in Germany Monday that Oldenburg still held Rusayev's registration.

UEFA said there should be a decision by the end of the week.

UEFA have asked the Russian Soccer Association and Spartak for more information, the spokesman said.

"We have told them we want to hear from them by tomorrow night and then it will be up to UEFA's control and disciplinary committee. There should be a decision by the end of the week."

Oldenburg say they still hold Rusayev's registration and that the Russian Association never contacted the German Federation to clear the player.

Rusayev also played in the European Cup Winners' Cup first round tie against Avenir Beggen of Luxembourg.

If Liverpool win a reprieve, UEFA could ask the English side to play Avenir for the right to a place in the quarter-finals against Feyenoord Rotterdam in March.

Alternatively, they could order the earlier tie to be replayed or even overlook the apparent breach of rule.

If Liverpool are reinstated they would become the second English club after league champions Leeds United to win a European

reprieve this season.

Leeds were awarded a first round rematch against VfB Stuttgart after the German champions included four foreign players in their squad for the second leg instead of the maximum three.

Leeds won the rematch at Barcelona, but were eliminated in the second round by Glasgow Rangers.

Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said Tuesday: "In view of the stories which are circulating in England and on the continent, we have faxed UEFA asking for clarification of this situation. But we are happy to leave the matter to them and we will wait and see what they decide."

The German Football Federation (DFB) said Rusayev had left Oldenburg suddenly without completing any of the necessary formalities and without a transfer.

"He just disappeared overnight without any transfer details being agreed," DFB spokesman

Wolfgang Niersbach said. "Oldenburg got no money for him."

"The DFB wasn't contacted to approve his departure which would normally be the case with a transfer. He left without completing the formalities."

In Moscow, Spartak officials said they doubted whether there was a strong case against them. "It's very unlikely anything like this could have happened because Oldenburg is an amateur club and transfers between amateur clubs do not need official papers or documents. No contracts are signed," said one official.

Another Spartak official said Oldenburg had sent a formal letter to the club saying Rusayev's contract with the German side had expired.

During the Soviet era Spartak, like all other soccer teams, had amateur status. The Spartak officials, who asked to remain anonymous, declined to clarify the club's present status.

Club chief Nikolai Starostin could not immediately be contacted for comment.

## Unwritten rules tell players how to act

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not all the rules of the game are in the book; unwritten rules tell a player how to act.

Assumptions that an athlete picks up as he grows up show him how to train, and how to get along with his teammates and his coach.

These cultural cues vary depending on a player's background. Black and white U.S. athletes have different approaches, and Japanese are different from either, experts say.

Of course, analysing culture does not account for personalities or even individual backgrounds, such as a black raised in a largely white area, or a Japanese child who learns baseball while his parents are in America. But researchers say you can spot broad social characteristics.

Teamwork is a case in point. In Japan, "the individual is usually perceived to have no existence outside of the group," said an article in the National Strength and Conditioning Association Journal.

As a result, Japanese focus on relations among many individuals

rather than upon the individual as an "independent entity" in a group. Bill Shang, president of NSCA's Japanese affiliate, wrote in the article.

Where individualistic Americans show "reluctant conformity," Japanese practice "democratic conformity" where players demonstrate control over their own will by moving toward consensus within the group, Shang said.

In America, whites and blacks can also differ about their roles in a team, said John Warfield, an associate professor of counseling psychology and African-American studies at the University of Texas.

Poorer black Americans especially have few fields in life where they can star, so it's not uncommon for a black athlete to look at his team as his place to go for "as much uniqueness as you can put into the game," Warfield said.

It's not enough to sink a basket, he said — a player wants a dunk to demonstrate dominance. "Excellence, and with a certain amount of pizzazz and style that adds to our points, so to speak,"

he said.

The team itself has a somewhat different meaning in Japan. Shang said. The team is thought of as a "household" — a close-knit community with hierarchical organisation and sub-leaders for its various groups, such as freshmen and sophomores, he said.

A successful leader in Japan motivates his people to "win for the coach or the captain, rather than for personal glory or achievement," Shang said.

The player's view of his coach's role also varies, the experts say. In Japan, the coach is the master; the athlete, a disciple, Shang said.

"The teacher-disciple (coach-athlete) bond is a very important one and fits into the whole group orientation of the Japanese," he said.

To a great extent, a Japanese coach teaches skills through example and imitation, where an American coach teaches more by analysis and explanation, Shang said.

In America, a white athlete may feel close to a coach, but as a

teacher, not a master, Warfield said. A black athlete may see the coach as the person who will judge whether he gets the chance to make first team, the professor said.

"The black athlete feels he has honed his skills on the asphalt of the city," Warfield said. "The black athlete assumes the coach can't improve on that very much."

However, a coach who gains a black athlete's trust can become a mentor, guiding him in decision-making on and off the field, Warfield said.

American athletes practice long and hard, but concentrate simply on developing skills. In Japan, on the other hand, there's a Zen approach to practice.

"Learning is more an intuitive than rational process," Shang said. A Japanese athlete looks on practice as more a development of inner self than muscle, he said.

"Athletes are bound to work out until they reach mental limitations, which in most cases (are) far beyond physical limits," he said. Athletes practice until the skill is effortless, he said.

## Technology a threat to future of Formula One

LONDON (R) — The success of Grand Prix racing as a global spectacle could decline seriously next season if the leading stars leave and the sport becomes a technological battleground, seasoned observers say.

They feel that spectators and television viewers, tired of seeing races reduced to little more than processions by the superior technology of a handful of cars, could drift away as spiralling costs also cut into the number and quality of the teams, drivers and sponsors.

This bleak picture emerged during the final two races of the 1992 season in Japan and Australia as a chorus of voices called for a rethink for the long-term future of Grand Prix racing.

Nobuhiko Kawamoto, presi-

dent and chief executive of Honda, Ken Tyrrell, veteran leader of the Tyrrell Racing Team, and Lee Guig, long-serving international racing manager for Goodyear, all criticised the current direction of the sport.

Gaug, 68, who retired from his job in Adelaide after 24 years in motor racing, the last 13 in Formula One, said: "I get very upset with the way things are going. We all want Formula One to be successful but it's going in the wrong direction."

"The decisions are being made by Bernie Ecclestone (the vice-president of FISA in charge of promotional affairs) and a handful of other people. But they are the haves, and the have-nots as well as the sponsors and suppliers, such as ourselves, are not

involved."

"They're trying to make decisions to improve Formula One, but they're talking to the wrong people. Bernie has made Formula One viable but the more powerful a man becomes the less he listens."

"He may be right, but nobody else has a chance to provide any input into the decisions which affect everybody. If you want to make a show of racing — and it's still entertainment — you have to do something technically to make the cars more evenly competitive."

"Being an unlimited technical exercise could kill Formula One," he said.

Gaug's criticisms gain support from Tyrrell, who stressed the sport's financial crisis.

"Formula One has got dreadful-

ly expensive and it is very difficult to find sponsors," he said. "You only have to look at the number of spaces on our car to know we have a lot of space we could sell — but can't."

He said some modern technical concepts also needed to be reviewed. "A classic example is active suspension. It really does nothing for the normal motor car of the future. So, do we need it?"

"The people out there watching the race, they don't care whether the car has active suspension or not. They want a good motor race. They don't want to see Nigel (Mansell) clearing off into the distance every time."

Tyrrell suggested using air-restrictors on engines as a means of levelling car performances

## HOROSCOPE

## FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The planets are with you today so instead of being fearful in the a.m. to achieve a purpose, think about how to do so diplomatically, and then go full speed ahead later. Complete routine early.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A new influential person coming into your life can be the means by which you most harmoniously combine past experience and present opportunities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can easily get rid of a limiting condition now by a change of attitude or methods where an activity is concerned without upsetting a present situation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more willing to look at new means by which you will be able to make a talent that you possess more marketable and show your interest in close companionship's problem.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) One from the outside can cause a problem in your home if you permit it but listen to whatever is said and avoid getting upset.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A bigwig from a distance can communicate some desires that you would be wise to try and do as a favour and don't make comments that could be misconstrued.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what you can do to get one who has considerable

business acumen to benefit of expertise matter perplexing to

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will be too get out from under a actually has real pc you so accept them opportunities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are too! get out from under a actually has real pc you so accept them opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An es associations aiding some important decisions best means for a dreams come true

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are basic outside advance necessary early to accept some suggest best efface them

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Many new ide beneficial to you now so don't pass them in make use of them in the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well if make some changes in of dealing with the ended background who have business contact

## THE BETTER HALF.

By J. HARR



"Since we can't think of anything to talk about, let's talk about not having anything to talk about!"

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD by Henri Arnold and

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARBIN  
RAALT  
WAIRND  
DUGRIT

Guess I made a fo myself over that we. You sure did.

IF YOU CONFIDE TOO MUCH IN YOUR MASSEUR, MIGHT DO THE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, guessed by the above cards.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABHOR BLOOD HUMBLE TRYP

Answer: "Your family wash in the backyard?"

"NO, THE BATHROOM"

## THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS

1 Fethers

5 Secrete

9 Vipers

13 Estrada of TV

14 Painter Claude

15 Domestic quarrel

16 Shopper's milieu

18 In — location phrase

19 Appears about to collapse

20 Stripped of

22 Organic compound

24 Augury

25 Hooded snake

28 Bards

31 Grows old

32 Fitted part of a cross

34 Chinese cooking vessel

37 Grant or membership

38 — See (Across)

39 Wallet item

40 Encountered

41 Release

42 Furry Johnson

43 Narrow molding

45 John of rock

46 "Adam —"

47 Home of the Buccaneers

50 Employed again

53 First again

57 Mers: pref.

58 Worrying over trivial matters

60 Even

61 Indian, a.g.

62 Forever — day

63 Spreads fast to dry

64 Transient

65 Advertising sign

7 Legal paper

8 Major order

9 Postulate

10 Flowered herb

11 Eucharistic plate

12 Ornamental button

14 Shopping center

17 Flat-topped hill

21 Memoranda

23 Distributed cards again

25 Transluc

26 Double curve

27 Stupid person

29 Marked with stripes

30 Does stage work

32 Certain

33 European

34 Food regimen

35 Aware

36 Sharp

38 River

39 More mean

42 None resident

44 Numskull

45 Head, e.g.

46 Uncle Mille

48 Hungarian hero

49 Chow —

50 River

51 Slingshot

52 Vagabond

54 Gun

55 Fleaver

56 Richard

58 Richard

59 Gymnasium



# Economy

**SCOPE**  
DAY DECEMBER  
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**Jordan Times**  
in co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**  
Dollar in International Markets

	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
LIBRA: (Sterling Pound)	1.5155	1.5155
Mark	1.5403	1.5410
Franc	1.4347	1.4345
Yen	5.4025	5.4025**
Yen	124.82	124.72
Yen	1.2303	1.2313**

**Interest Rates**  
Date: 1/12/92

	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
LIBRA: (Sterling Pound)	7.10	7.10	7.75	8.01
Mark	9.50	9.25	8.00	7.87
Franc	6.57	6.50	6.25	6.43
Yen	10.37	10.39	5.3	5.37
Yen	3.90	3.75	3.02	3.02
Yen	11.50	10.16	10.37	9.50

**Interest Rates**  
Date: 1/12/92

	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Silver	554.60	0.50	Silver	5.74	0.50

**Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**  
Date: 1/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0419	1.0471
Mark	0.4328	0.4350
Franc	0.4795	0.4827
Yen	0.1273	0.1279
Yen	0.5518	0.5546
Yen	0.3846	0.3865
Yen	0.1008	0.1013
Yen	0.0495	0.0495
Yen	0.02097	0.02107

**Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**  
Date: 1/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Dinar	1.8050	1.8000
Lira	0.03533	0.03533
Riyal	0.1835	0.1845
Dinar	2.2900	2.3000
Riyal	0.1867	0.1876
Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Riyal	1.7600	1.7720
Riyal	0.1867	0.1876
Drachma	0.3289	0.3369
Pound	1.3469	1.3569

**Indices for Amman Financial Market**

	29 11 92	Close	30 11 92	Close
Share	166.50		166.05	
Banking Sector	120.01		120.10	
Insurance Sector	181.94		182.39	
Industry Sector	227.59		228.20	
Services Sector	234.50		235.62	

November 31, 1992

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession at the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets on today.

sterling	1.5165/75	U.S. dollars	
U.S. dollar	1.2891/96	Canadian dollar	
	1.5885/95	Deutschmarks	
	1.7870/80	Dutch guilders	
	1.4275/85	Swiss francs	
	32.68/72	Belgian francs	
	5.4100/75	French francs	
	1409/1412	Italian lire	
	124.41/46	Japanese yen	
	6.8850/50	Swedish crowns	
	5175/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.1600/700	Danish crowns	
ounce of gold	\$334.40/334.90		

## Russia puts 5,000 biggest firms up for sale

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said Tuesday it would privatise its 5,000 biggest companies next year but officials admitted it was hard to tell which were likely industrial powerhouses and which potential bankrupts.

President Boris Yeltsin told parliament the massive privatisation drive, reversing decades of communist state control, represented the transfer of a major part of Russia's wealth to private hands.

"For the first time, the state is not taking away from its citizens but making them owners of a large portion of national property," the president said.

He said the 5,000 would be sold off at special sales where Russia's 150 million people will be able to buy shares in individual firms in exchange for "privatisation cheques" which are being distributed free to every man, woman and child.

But Dmitry Vasilyev, deputy head of the Russian Committee on State Property, said the volatile economic situation and absence of Western accounting methods made it hard to pick winners and losers in the sell-off.

"With the enterprises we're dealing with now, it's very hard to tell whether they're potential giants in the future economy or whether they're bankrupt, because the situation in the market is still very unstable," he told a news conference.

"The danger exists, of course, that some enterprises will go bankrupt. That is real. But there's no way out of this situa-

tion except to move towards the market," he said.

In the midst of a slump which has sent industrial output plunging by a fifth this year and forced many companies to lay off workers or pile up heavy debts, many Russians are deeply sceptical of the privatisation scheme.

Disregarding Mr. Yeltsin's exhortations to join in the creation of a society with "millions of owners instead of a handful of millionaires," many people have already sold their cheques for cash at well below their value of 10,000 roubles (\$24).

The government has responded by widening the use of the cheques to make them more attractive — for example by letting people use them to buy apartments.

Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais was quoted Monday as saying the government planned to let people use the cheques to buy property worth 1.5 million roubles (\$3.6 billion) next year. Additional property sales would bring in another 340 billion roubles (\$815 million).

Oleg Shumakov, head of the Bolshevik Confectionery Factory in Moscow which will be one of the first major firms to be privatised, said his 2,000 workers had been promised a controlling 51 per cent collective stake in the plant for free.

They were being encouraged to buy more shares at a "cheque auction" scheduled for next week.

"The workers will take extra shares to add to their 51 per

cent... we're telling them that apart from their salary they — have the chance of a (dividend) payment at the end of the year," he told reporters.

Officials said individuals, large investors and would-be foreign shareholders could all take part in the auctions, where the price of shares will be set according to demand.

Small investors can simply state how many cheques they want to sell, in which case they are guaranteed shares.

Alternatively investors can give a maximum price they are ready to pay. They will receive shares only if the price is right.

Mr. Vasilyev said the privatisation proposals for next year had been approved by the government Monday and would be passed to parliament late this week or early next for its approval.

President Yeltsin signalled closer ties with Russia's ailing industrial sector Tuesday, promising to help firms with their investment plans and to shield them from competition from abroad.

In comments clearly designed to gain support from the industrial lobby for the battle looming in Russia's conservative Congress of People's Deputies, Mr. Yeltsin

said the state would give firms contracts to help them survive.

"We shall firmly and consistently lead state industrial policies along the golden path between the free market and state regulation," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"State enterprises will have state orders for part of their production... we shall give subsidised credits for big investment projects. We need reasonable protectionism," he pointed out.

Mr. Yeltsin's comments, included in an address to congress's opening session, indicate that the Russian president is moving away from the free-market policies espoused by Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar — at least while congress lasts.

"We favour all-round cooperation with industrialists and entrepreneurs who are becoming the backbone of Russia's economy," Mr. Yeltsin said.

His speech is likely to pave the way for further support for domestic industry at the expense of foreign firms.

Signs of this approach emerged last week when Mr. Yeltsin gave a domestic firm the right to develop a big gas field on the Arctic shelf.

Rosshelf Company, backed by Russia's military-industrial com-

plex and the country's energy producers, had beaten off a competing bid from a consortium led by Norway's Norsk Hydro A/S.

The Russian firm won support at home with its pledge to create jobs in the depressed Arctic region and ease the impact of Russia's painful attempts to introduce a market economy.

"Tied credits only create jobs in other countries," Mr. Yeltsin said. "We shall concentrate on attracting foreign investments into projects with overwhelming Russian capital."

Mr. Yeltsin has faced increasingly bitter criticism in recent months from industrialists and conservatives who say the reform plan introduced by Mr. Gaidar and his economic team has not yet brought tangible results.

Inflation is expected to be over 2,000 per cent this year and industrial output is due to fall by one-fifth. Unemployment — condemned as an unnecessary capitalist evil under decades of socialist central planning — is likely to rise sharply soon.

But Mr. Yeltsin said the reforms were like a partially built house which should not be judged yet. "The house is still being

built, it is all covered in scaffolding with heaps of rubbish and construction materials all around," he said.

"Completion is not even in sight. It would be a big mistake to take what has been done so far as the final result and make far-reaching conclusions on that basis," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin said the tax burden on firms and individuals would fall next year when lower value added tax rates were introduced. No tax would be paid on income being reinvested, he said.

He said average monthly salary levels would double by the end of the year, reflecting a new unified system of pay scales currently being introduced by the government.

Documents banded to deputies as congress began showed that Russian industrial output fell to 81.9 per cent of year-ago levels in the first 10 months of 1992. National income of 8.6 trillion roubles (\$20.6 billion), was 80 per cent of 1991 levels.

The Russian Statistics Committee said 10-month exports were 73 per cent of 1991 levels at \$29.9 billion. Imports fell to \$28.5 billion, or 82 per cent of year-ago levels.

## ERM under strong pressure

LONDON (R) — The European Community's (EC's) currency grid came under severe strain Tuesday after the German central bank again dashed hopes of an interest-rate cut, sparking a wave of selling against the French franc.

Funds surged to the mark, sapping a host of currencies including the Italian lira, after the president of the powerful Bundesbank said he saw no room to ease monetary policy, despite calls to cut the interest-rate burden hanging over Europe.

The Bundesbank has been resisting strong pressure to defuse tensions in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), shaken by a series of currency crises and realignments, and slash its domestic borrowing costs.

The latest negative signal from Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger triggered an assault by market speculators on the French franc, a pillar of the ERM

despite its recent weakness.

The Bank of France was forced to step into the market as a buyer to shore up the currency, which was only saved from an earlier offensive in October by a high-cost defence by the Bundesbank and the French authorities.

"It's clear the ERM's troubles will never be over until German rates come down," said Chase Bank economist IAN Gunner. "But defending the franc is vital for the system's survival. So you can expect France and Germany to fight like hell."

Even with a helping hand from the central bank and supportive comments from the French government, the franc moved as low as 3.4090 to the mark, a level not seen for several weeks, coming within a few centimes of its 3.405 floor.

Old victims of ERM strain, such as the Italian lira which left the system in September, were also sucked into the latest drama.

The lira slipped to \$84.5 per mark from Monday's \$75.25, but dealers said the focus was still on money grid woes.

European share markets were quiet by comparison, with a three-day rally in London running out of steam and sending the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares 5.7 points lower to 2,773.1 during the morning session.

Elsewhere, the Hong Kong stock market plunged as China's war of words with Governor Chris Patten over the British colony's handover to Beijing intensified. The Hang Seng index closed down 308.92 points, or five per cent, at 5,501.71 on Tuesday.

In Europe, the U.S. dollar wilted slightly under the glare of the mighty German mark, easing to 1.5903 marks and 124.66 Japanese yen from Monday's 1.5970 marks and 124.81 yen.

The Danish crown, also considered a selling target, followed the franc downward and dealers said the vulnerable Irish punt was open to renewed pressure after Monday's solid performance.

Another ex-ERM member, Britain's pound sterling, lost ground to the mark, weakening to 2.4112 marks from Monday's 2.4209.

Shares on the Paris bourse opened mixed, shrugging off the effect of a lower franc. The CAC-40 index rose 0.51 points to 1,771.88 in initial trade.

In Frankfurt, confirmation of continuing high interest rates weighed on share prices. The 30-share DAX index stood lower at 1,543.39, compared with Monday's 1,544.34.

On the London oil market, the internationally traded Brent Blend for January delivery eased nine cents to \$18.75 a barrel. Gold was quoted at \$334.65 an ounce from Monday's \$334.50.

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## Fighting rages in Bosnia as Panic bids for presidency

SARAJEVO (R) — Heavy fighting overnight in Bosnia buried the latest truce as moderate Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic prepared to stand for the Serbian presidency, offering some hope of an end to the carnage.

Bosnian radio reported heavy fighting in a corridor in northern Bosnia disputed by Serbs and Croats, both of whom need it to link areas under their control.

Fighting was reported to be particularly intense at Gradacac, with both artillery and infantry attacks.

There were similar reports from other Croat and Muslim-held towns in northern Bosnia — Brcko, Maglaj, Bihac, Doboj and Tesanj — blocking the Serbs from forging an unbroken supply corridor from Serb-held areas in Croatia to Serbia itself.

Croat forces need to cross the corridor to reach areas they control in the south. These conflicting interests appear to have put paid to yet another truce signed last week that was supposed to have ended cross-border shelling and eased the withdrawal of regular Croatian army troops.

In besieged Sarajevo, there was fighting in the southwestern suburb of Dobrinja with artillery and machinegun fire, and mortar attacks on new Sarajevo and Stupko Brdo.

The U.N. airlift to besieged Sarajevo was suspended Tuesday after a U.S. relief plane was hit by small-arms fire, U.N. officials said.

They said the plane was not badly damaged, and there were no injuries. The plane was now on the ground at Sarajevo Airport, they said.

In Belgrade, the announcement by moderate Prime Minister

Milan Panic that he will run against hardline nationalist Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic offered a flicker of hope that the bitter civil war might end.

Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born American businessman, is opposed to Mr. Milosevic's dream of a greater Serbia constructed from parts of former Yugoslav republics that have quit the federation.

On Monday, the Serbian Electoral Commission challenged Mr. Panic's right to stand for the presidency in elections on Dec. 20, saying he had not been a resident for the required minimum one year.

However, a top aide said they would prove Mr. Panic fulfilled the requirements for the presidency because he had kept an apartment in Belgrade in his name for over a year.

A recent opinion poll on preferences for Serbian president put Mr. Panic in second place — behind federal President Dobrica Cosic, who has said he is not running — with Mr. Milosevic well down in fourth place.

Western diplomats said the elections were vital to Serbia's future and that if Mr. Panic ran and defeated Mr. Milosevic, it could have a major impact on the outcome of the Yugoslav crisis.

"We would be more than a step closer to ending the war in Bosnia," one diplomat said.

Mr. Panic pledged Tuesday to "save Serbia" if elected.

"It's time for a change. That is why I am running for president," Mr. Panic, 62, told reporters in Belgrade.

"A vote for Milan Panic is a vote to restore the rightful place and reputation of Serbia among

the nations of the world. A vote for Milan Panic is a vote to save Serbia."

Mr. Panic has surprised Yugoslavs and the West by refusing to be intimidated by Mr. Milosevic and espousing international efforts to end fighting.

With no sign of a let-up in the fighting in Bosnia, hopes for change are now nearly pinned to the Dec. 20 elections.

With the U.S.-style campaigning rhetoric which infuriates his opponents, Mr. Panic listed off a catalogue of ills he said Mr. Milosevic had heaped on the republic.

"Our economy is in a shambles, unemployment is skyrocketing, inflation is out of control, our children have no future," Mr. Panic said.

"Under Milosevic we have become isolated internationally and have become the victim of crippling sanctions. War rages out of control and yet Milosevic has done nothing. All that he offers is fear, division and confrontation."

While Mr. Panic's residence to Mr. Milosevic has won him public admiration, Belgrade's old political guard still play on his "foreign" background to portray him as a traitor manipulated by Washington.

Launching his campaign, Mr. Panic was at pains to stress his loyalty to Serbia.

"I am committed to the cause of all Serbs wherever they may live," he said. "Serbs are a proud and dignified people. And I am proud to be a Serb."

Meanwhile, impatient with the West's failure to end the war, foreign ministers from nearly 50 Islamic nations meeting in Jeddah Tuesday were expected to press for U.N. military intervention

against the Serbs.

"We have had enough talk. Dozens of international conferences and lots of meetings, but nothing concrete," said an Arab delegate.

The two-day meeting of the 47-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is expected to issue a strongly-worded resolution urging the U.N. to use force to end what they call Serb aggression against Bosnian Muslims, delegates said.

"The meeting will issue a resolution with very strong language urging the world to take military action to put an end to the conflict through the United Nations mechanism," added a Saudi Arabian delegate.

Delegates expect the OIC to approve setting up an Islamic force to be deployed immediately if the U.N. decides to intervene militarily — an idea so far rejected by the West.

The Saudi delegate said the meeting would also call for an end to the arms embargo for Bosnian Muslims.

European Community peace envoy Lord Owen said Tuesday he did not believe that sending an Islamic military force to help beleaguered Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a realistic proposition.

Speaking from Saudi Arabia, Lord Owen said all outside military intervention must come under the auspices of the United Nations.

Asked whether he believed a Muslim military force should be sent to Bosnia, he replied: "I don't think it's realistic."

"It must be through the United Nations," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation. "There is a readiness to work through the United Nations."



A Bosnian injured during the civil war carries a sack of grain to feed his family in war-torn city of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

## B 1 bomber crashes in Texas

PECOS, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Air Force B 1 bomber crashed in the mountains of western Texas late Monday during a training flight, authorities said. Military officials did not know the fate of the four people aboard.

Residents reported seeing a fireball in an area about 150 miles (240 km) southeast of El Paso, authorities said.

The plane, from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, went down south of Van Horn during a training mission, said Capt. Harry Edwards, a Dyess spokesman. The plane was not carrying any weapons, he said.

Four people aboard the plane were missing, Capt. Edwards said.

Terry Thummel, a Department of Public Safety (DPS) dispatcher in El Paso, said DPS received a report that a Jeff Davis County official had located a survivor. But she said she had no other information. Capt. Edwards would not comment on the possibility of survivors.

2 military cargo planes crash

Meanwhile, two military cargo planes collided Monday night over Montana and crashed, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) duty officer said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The U.S. Air Force C-141, based at McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, Washington, collided near Chinook, in north central Montana, Seattle FAA duty officer Lee Fryer said.

The collision reportedly occurred during a refueling operation that involved four C-141s and a tanker plane based at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Washington, Fryer said.

The crash site was about 40 kilometres south of the Canadian border.

The C-141, nicknamed the Starliner, is one of the air force's largest aircraft. The four engine jet typically carries five crew members.

## British film star stuck at Cairo Airport

CAIRO (R) — Brit Emily Lloyd may be Hollywood star but to immigration officials she is another illegal alien.

She is at Cairo Airport for hours Monday after she was stopped by immigration officials without her passport, left on a bus in New York sources said. A British official eventually came for her. Lloyd, 22, has reviews for her role in Redford's latest film Run Through It. She is to attend an internet festival.

8 Cezannes set for less than estimated price

LONDON (AP) — Eight by the French artist Paul Cezanne set for less than estimated price.

The French artist Paul Cezanne's 18th-century painting of Apples in a Basket (Pommes et Servier Cezanne) for £11 million (million). That remains the highest price for his work.

Condoms reach French lycées

PARIS (R) — The first dispenser to be installed in French high schools was at Paris' Lycée V. Education and Culture Jack Lang. An opinion 83 per cent of French supported Mr. Lang's to put condom dispensers in schools to fight the AIDS.

Retired nurse claims \$21m jac

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Kallas has won bingo a and enough money to a roof on her house and, for her niece's wedding, she claimed Texas' jackpot — \$21.76 million, thinking of replacing it Chevrolet Celebrity. She does the 65 year old nurse has no intention of Schulerdurg, her home 2,400 residents 145 km west of Houston. "I move to stay" on retiring in Houston job in June, she said. As for the prize, she said, "It's so overwhelming," she said. She was a person to pick a six number grab a jackpot that building without a whim Nov. 14. She will receive annual payments of \$1,000,000 each.

Court refuses to give switched son to biological mother

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court has refused to give a Georgia woman a biological son, another couple after a switched him and another. The court, without comment, issued a ruling that awarded today of the boy, now 9 years to the couple who has raised since birth, Jodie Denise I whose name then was Jodie Pope of Griffin, Ga. 1983, the same day another was born to a woman who needed to give her baby adoption. The babies accidentally exchanged a day their mothers were from the hospital. The boy was to be given up for adoption of mixed race, while Paul's baby was white. Mrs. did not question the race baby she took home because own family had American blood, her lawyer said: switch was not discovered five years later, when Mrs. and her then-husband, V. Pope, had blood tests in connection with their divorce. Mr. had claimed he did not have their son, Cameron. The tests showed that neither boy's biological parent. Mrs. eventually learned that her son was named Jodie. Mrs. Moore adopted Cameron, Mrs. Moore adopted Cameron, sought custody of Melvin, Georgia judge awarded custody of Melvin to the Moores. Paul was allowed visitation to her biological son.

## Buthelezi wants Natal unity with Kwazulu

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, defiantly resisting all-party democracy talks, is seeking referendum backing for unilateral union between white-led Natal and his Zulu homeland as a basis for a federal South Africa.

The Inkatha Freedom Party leader, quoted by the South African Press Association Tuesday, told his Kwazulu homeland legislative assembly that union with Natal would set South Africa firmly on federal course.

He laid out his ideas in the form of constitutional proposals which he said should be put to the people of the two areas in referendum.

"The adoption of this constitution will prove of our point that a good constitution can be written and democratically approved without a Constituent Assembly," he said.

President F.W. de Klerk's white minority government and Nelson Mandela's black nationalist African National Congress (ANC) have agreed that a final democratic constitution for South Africa must be hammered out in a democratically-elected constitution-making assembly.

Political analysts say Inkatha's opposition to a Constituent Assembly stems from fear that it would gain only a small vote in a truly democratic national vote.

Mr. Buthelezi, they add, has long favoured a united Natal/Kwazulu that would give him a stronger regional power base and more clout in national politics.

The Zulu leader said the national negotiating process would be forced to take into account "this new reality" which would be based on agreements between the black Kwazulu government and white Natal authorities.

"The region's federal position will be accepted in its entirety, or it will be unreasonably rejected and we will have called the game of the South African government and the African National Congress/Communist Party alliance and exposed them to South Africa at large and the world," he added.

Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer, the government's top negotiator, accused Mr. Buthelezi of stalling the resumption of democracy talks while publicly saying he was committed to a peaceful settlement.

Mr. Meyer said that while Mr. Buthelezi and Inkatha had repeatedly demanded an urgent multiparty conference, they had also been responsible for preventing it from taking place.

Mr. Meyer lambasted Inkatha a day before an ANC government "hash summit" to discuss the transition to democracy, including setting a tentative date for the first non-racial elections.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### IRA Belfast bomb injures 27

BELFAST (R) — Twenty-seven people were injured, two of them seriously, when an IRA bomb exploded in the centre of Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland, Tuesday. Police said the bomb ripped through offices in Ann Street, a pedestrian precinct which houses several major chain stores and shops. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, said in a statement to the media that it was responsible for the blast. A spokesman for the local health board said 10 ambulances rushed the injured to hospital. Local shopkeepers helped to rescue them. Two were reported to be seriously hurt and the others were described as "walking wounded."

### UNHCR to send teams to Armenia, Azerbaijan

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), already helping refugees in Somalia and former Yugoslavia, has decided to open emergency operations in the former Soviet Union, an official said Tuesday. UNHCR spokeswoman Wednesday said the agency would dispatch emergency teams Wednesday to Armenia and Azerbaijan to aid people fleeing the fighting between the two former Soviet Republics. "We are very concerned about what is happening with these people," Ms. Foa told reporters. Adding that the agency has counted more than 100,000 refugees without shelter or possessions in the two countries. The two emergency teams of five members each will set up operations in Yerevan, capital of Armenia, and Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, to provide basic food and shelter for the most vulnerable refugees from fighting in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, she said. She said representatives of the agency have been making periodic checks on the area and on their last visit had counted 92,500 "most vulnerable" refugees in Armenia and 53,000 in Azerbaijan, "people really with nothing."

### 20 Germans admit killing Turks

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — Two young German men have confessed to murdering three Turks in a firebomb attack in Moelln near Hamburg last week, Federal Prosecutor Alexander Von Stahl said Tuesday. The accused — rightwingers Michael Peters, 25, and Lars Christiansen, 19 — had confessed after being arrested Sunday. Mr. Stahl said in a statement. A 51-year-old Turkish woman and two young girls were killed in the Moelln attack, the single most violent incident in several months of racist violence against foreigners by German neo-Nazis. Mr. Stahl said there was no evidence at the moment that any other assailants had taken part in the attack.

### Thailand bars U.N. flights from Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Thailand Tuesday barred scheduled United Nations flights from neighbouring Cambodia, just hours after the U.N. Security Council imposed bans on oil and timber border trade with Khmer Rouge guerrillas. "I don't know why," said Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia (UNTAC) said he suspected Thailand was responding to the sanctions decision. Most Khmer Rouge trade, worth tens of millions of dollars a year, is with Thailand, where powerful military figures have important stakes. Thai cooperation is crucial to the success of sanctions. And while Bangkok has previously pledged to respect them, it has said it considers dialogue a better way to bring the guerrillas back into line.

### U.N. endorses chemical arms treaty

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. General Assembly Monday endorsed by consensus a crucial chemical weapons convention, clearing the way for signature early next year. "The United States government believes that the United Nations General Assembly has made history today... by adopting the chemical weapons resolution without a vote," said U.S. deputy representative Alexander Watson. The treaty would ban the production, use and stockpiling of chemical arms and includes intrusive inspections to verify compliance. A total of 146 states sponsored the resolution, a prerequisite to opening the treaty for signature at a ceremony in Paris, scheduled for Jan. 13.

### Tsongas confirms he has cancer

BOSTON (AP) — Former Democratic presidential candidate Paul Tsongas, who has twice battled cancer, confirmed Monday a new growth in his abdomen is cancerous. "That's the bad news," Mr. Tsongas, 51, said at a news conference. "The good news is that it's contained." The former U.S. senator said he will undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatment as early as Thursday, and that those measures should effectively remove the cancer, which he identified as large-cell lymphoma. "Now, is this the last one they'll ever find?" he asked. "Who knows?"

## Burmese dissident puts pressure on junta

RANGOON (R) — More than three years of confinement have done nothing to diminish the faith many Burmese have in opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Now a warning that her life may be in danger has renewed pressure on the military junta, which would like to believe she has been forgotten and wants to convince foreign governments and aid donors it is easing its grip.

Aung San Suu Kyi, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, led peaceful protests after the junta seized power in September 1988 as troops crushed a pro-democracy uprising with heavy loss of life.

She has been under house arrest at her home by Rangoon's Linn Lake since July 1989 but her party, the National League for Democracy, still won a May 1990 general election. The generals refused to step down.

WASHINGTON (R) — World experts on AIDS fear the disease could run out of control by the end of the century and are pleading with governments to spend billions of dollars more for prevention as the only practical way to stop it.

The Global AIDS Policy Coalition co-located at Harvard University reported there are signs the disease is entering a new, more dangerous phase because many countries are becoming complacent and devaluing the size of the problem.

"Nobody believes what we are doing now will bring the epidemic under control," Dr. Jonathan Mann, coordinator of the AIDS Policy Coalition, said. He has predicted the number of people infected with the AIDS virus could reach 110 million by the year 2000.

In a 1,037 page report called AIDS In The World, the coalition said world financial commitment for AIDS prevention and control fell for the first time in 1991.

The lack of money was particularly noticed in developing countries where about \$0.07 per person was spent in sub-Saharan Africa compared to \$1.15 per person in Europe and \$2.71 in the United States, it said.

"When you see that response plateauing or declining at the same time the epidemic is expanding and intensifying, that is a kind of a call to arms," Dr. Mann said in a telephone interview.

The report, which was prepared for the 1992 World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, said there have been some successes at the local level which need to be expanded.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) weakens the body's immune system and leaves it open to tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancers and other infections which ultimately prove fatal. Discovery of a cure or vaccine is far in the future.

The AIDS virus is spread through sexual contact, blood and sharing of contaminated needles by intravenous drug users.

The head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) AIDS effort, Dr. Michael Merson, said he is campaigning for a \$2.5 billion commitment by governments and businesses in wealthier countries to prevent the spread of the disease.

"The poorer countries need help. \$2.5 billion is not that much money, compared with the cost of the disease," he said in a telephone interview. Dr. Merson, based at WHO headquarters in Geneva, was in Washington for World AIDS Day activities.

Prevention would include more money spent to provide condoms to the poor and education on safe sexual practices to protect against AIDS infection.

## EC to streamline asylum procedures

LONDON (R) — European Community (EC) immigration ministers agreed Monday to work towards harmonising their asylum policies, adopting a resolution on streamlining procedures to weed out bogus asylum seekers.

British Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke, hosting a two-day meeting of EC immigration and justice ministers as current EC president, said all 12 EC states reported progress on relaxing frontier controls during the post-1992 single European market.

But Mr. Clarke said the main achievement of the one-day immigration ministers meeting was to approve a non-binding resolution on what he called "manifestly unfounded applications for asylum" that clog up the system for genuine refugees.

"We all agreed we were going to introduce expedited procedures," he told a news conference

at the end of talks lasting some seven hours. "It will allow for a streamlined procedure to be adopted."

A press statement said the ministers agreed to examine putting the principle into effect in a binding convention.

The ministers also approved a non-binding resolution on "host third countries" — agreeing that asylum seekers should apply in the first safe country they reach.

They discussed the exodus of refugees from war-racked Bosnia and Britain, which had been criticised for doing too little, announced it was increasing the number of temporary asylum places for Bosnia detention camp inmates and their families from about 600 to 4,600.

Immigration Minister Charles Wardle told parliament a previous British offer of places for 150 inmates and their families

would be increased to 1,000 inmates and about 2,000 dependants, for a total of 4,000.

But Mr. Clarke said later the new places were in addition to the earlier figure, and said the total would reach 4,600.

Mr. Clarke said a proposal by European Commission Vice-President Martin Bangemann that all EC countries should remove their frontier controls during 1993 failed to win support.

Mr. Clarke said all EC countries would be maintaining some frontier controls when the single market plans for the free movement of goods begin on Jan. 1. Britain is insisting it will retain its passport checks.

The present arrangements for the scrutiny of passport at airports will remain in place but EC citizens arriving at British sea ports will be allowed entry simply by showing their passport without a formal examination.

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